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Gender, Adapting to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management

A publication focusing on the concerns of both women and men in the context of disasters and adaptation to climate change in the Pacific will be released soon. The publication has been produced after a regional forum organized by the UNDP Pacific Centre in partnership with the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) earlier this year.

The forum provided an opportunity for people working in the areas of natural resource management, climate change and community development to exchange experiences and discuss the means of better integrating gender in disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change programmes.

Held in Suva in February, the forum examined why gender matters in natural disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change and drew on the experiences of

Pacific experts from the fields of agriculture production, fisheries, and energy resources to explore best practice. The forum also explored the potential of traditional knowledge as an effective entry point for gender responsive programming. Gender is often a misunderstood term and failure to consider the way the different roles and responsibilities women and men play in society and shape the knowledge and skills they bring to the table, can reduce the effectiveness of development.

"The women and men of Pacific island communities have managed natural resources for generations by drawing on their intimate knowledge of their surrounding environments. Through the application of this knowledge these communities have also demonstrated an enormous resilience in the face of a range of natural disasters," said Garry Wiseman, Manager of the UNDP Pacific Centre.

"It is important that the women and men of Pacific island countries work collectively to identify value and harness the diversity of their knowledge and experiences to develop effective strategies to adapt to, prepare for and reduce their vulnerability to these environmental and climatic challenges."

The discussions from the workshop will feed into future disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change programming. They will be part of the soon to be released publication produced jointly by the UNDP



Putting gender on the map: Workshop facilitator Cheryl Anderson (L) with Simon McGree (R); looking on is Brian Phillip

Pacific Centre Presents Strategy

UNDP Pacific Centre partners and stakeholders attended a presentation of the Centre's strategy and work programme for the next programming cycle covering 2008 - 2011. The work programme has been developed from the Asia Pacific Regional Document and based on the UNDP Global Strategic Plan 2008-2011, both of which has been endorsed by the Executive Board.

The Centre's Strategy focuses on supporting the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with the aim of

eradicating poverty through development, equitable and sustained economic growth, and capacity building. Other activity areas are democratic governance; crisis prevention and recovery; financial inclusion and support for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

The presentation held on March 31st was attended by various partners of the Pacific Centre that include civil society organizations, Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies, representatives of Pacific Island governments, United Nations agencies and donor partners.

Strengthening Local Level Risk Management in Navua

People living near the Navua River are gaining skills to prevent, be prepared and respond to life threatening situations, such as natural disasters at the community level. Their newly acquired skills will also raise awareness of the hazards in their environment and how these could be addressed.

This is part of a pilot project undertaken by the UNDP Pacific Centre and implementing partners such as Fiji Red Cross Society, Fiji National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) and the Asia Foundation / Office for US Foreign Disaster Assistance (TAF/OFDA).

The project takes a long term approach to promoting integrated disaster risk reduction and strengthening of local level risk management in the Navua region, one of the main flood prone areas in Fiji.

The project contains an advocacy component to raise awareness amongst national and local level government representatives, the community and the private sector regarding the links between devel-

opment and flooding in Navua.

It also supports local government in risk sensitizing development planning and strengthening capacity of local CSO's to support communities in participatory disaster risk sensitive development projects.

Earlier this year the UNDP Pacific Centre and the Fiji Red Cross Society ran four workshops on Community Based First Aid & Disaster Preparedness in the communities of the Navua area. These were attended by about 200 villagers. The workshops:

- ❑ Provided members of communities with knowledge and skills to prevent, be prepared and respond to life threatening situations, such as disasters, in order to reduce suffering and death;
- ❑ Raised awareness of the Navua project; and
- ❑ Provided participants with a grounded understanding of the basic principles of DRM and the linkages between development practices and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

From the 16th-18th April 2008 the Fiji Red Cross Society supported by UNDP Pacific Centre, TAF/OFDA and the Government of Fiji conducted the first Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment Training Workshop.

This provided training on Vulnerability and Capacity

Background on Navua

- ❑ **Four major floods in the Navua area have been caused by intense and prolonged rainfall associated with tropical cyclones.**
- ❑ **Over the years flooding has caused considerable economic loss in the Navua township and in adjoining villages and settlements.**
- ❑ **Floods in 2003 and April 2004 caused extensive damage to crops, livestock, houses, roads and bridges. Thousands of people lost their homes and belongings.**

Assessment to community members, who in turn would train more members of their respective communities.

In the coming months the trained participants from the Navua with the support of the UNDP Pacific Centre, Fiji Red Cross Society and TAF/OFDA will conduct a Vulnerability & Capacity Assessment (VCA) in targeted communities in the Navua area.

The overall aim of VCA is to empower all sectors of the community to identify projects that address their development priorities and reduce their vulnerability to disaster risk.

This activity will also be focused upon the development of gender specific case studies on traditional/local knowledge and roles held by men and women in areas such as DRM, environment and natural resource management, and agriculture and how these influence their vulnerability to risk.

The VCA will also contribute to building a body of knowledge regarding gender, Adaptation to Climate Change (ACC) and Disaster Risk Reduction in the region.



VCA training course: Vasiti Daveta from Vunibau Village and Emosi Sakaturu, Disaster Officer, Fiji Red Cross (Lautoka Branch) working on a spatial map for Vunibau Village (Navua)

Pacific Gender Experts Provide Input to Regional Human Development Report

Pacific civil society members working in the area of gender, government representatives and development partners met in Suva from April 21-22 to discuss Pacific perspectives on gender inequality.

The discussions were part of the consultations on the process of preparing the Asia Pacific Regional Human Development Report on Gender, and will feed into the report, which is being facilitated by the Human Development Report Unit of the UNDP Regional Centre Colombo. The two day Pacific consultation, held at the Holiday Inn in Suva followed the Asia consultation that was held in Malaysia from 14-15 April.

The Pacific consultation discussed "unequal power and voice" that has been identified as the overarching framework for this work. The discussions also focused on gender socialization and identities which influence opportunities

and choices for women and men, as well as sensitive aspects relating to gender that include cultural norms and practices.

The meeting discussed the six themes under consideration for the report. These include gender and political and justice system gaps; economic gaps and the importance of investing in gender equality; energy and environment; gender based violence; gender in crisis prevention and recovery; and

gender in the context of migration and mobility. The Pacific consultation while gathering Pacific perspectives on gender inequality also helped narrow down the core issues that will be addressed in the report.

The Asia Pacific Regional Human Development Report on Gender will be the third in a regular series. The first in this series was the 2006 report "Trade on Human Terms: Transforming Trade for Human Development in Asia and the Pacific."



Talking Gender: UNDP RCC's Human Development Report Unit's Ramesh Gampat (L) with SPC's consultant Kim Robertson at the consultation

The second, "Tackling Corruption, Transforming Lives: Accelerating Human Development for Asia and the Pacific" will be globally launched on June 12 in Indonesia by His Excellency Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia.

A Pacific launch will be held later in June.

CPR Consultative Group Formed

Pacific Centre's Crisis Prevention and Recovery team recently set up a Regional Informal Technical Conflict Prevention and Recovery Consultative Group (CPR CG).

This group will facilitate informal communication between key regional organizations, bilateral and multi-lateral technical officials and will create synergy amongst CPR partners for more targeted work in the area of crisis prevention and recovery.

The CPR CG forum has been formed to create a common understanding and analysis of conflict prevention and recovery issues in the region.

This would ensure both a coherent message on CPR and coordinate the efforts of different actors in this area, as well as enhance support to Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies like the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and national institutions.

The purposes of the CPR CG include:

- ❑ To share information on global and Pacific knowledge, experiences, lessons learned and best practices in CPR;
- ❑ To mainstreaming of conflict-sensitive approaches to development programming;
- ❑ To provide a forum for peer

review of new CPR programmes;

- ❑ To improve coordination;
- ❑ To ensure the sustainability (including financial) and long-term development focus of CPR programmes and;
- ❑ To promote gender equality and human rights perspectives in CPR programmes/interventions.

The members of the CPR CG include AusAID, European Union, France, NZAID, OCHA, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, United Kingdom, UNDP Fiji MCO, UNDP Pacific Centre, UNIFEM, United States of America and the University of the South Pacific.

Making Aid More Effective in the Pacific

Pacific Island government agencies, donor agency representatives and development partners met in Nadi, Fiji in April to discuss means of making aid more effective in producing development outcomes in the Pacific.

The meeting identified a set of key issues to reflect the Pacific's perspective in the next round of global discussions on aid effectiveness in Accra, Ghana in September.

These issues include among others, the need to ensure that aid impacts

positively upon women, men and marginalized groups; the need for democratic ownership in setting countries' development priorities; capacity development of Pacific countries, redefining the role of civil society organizations in aid effectiveness; strengthening accountability on both donors and countries' sides; and harmonization among development partners.

The issues, reflected in the workshop outcome document, were identified at the Pacific Regional Workshop on Aid Effectiveness, organised jointly

by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pacific Centre and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The workshop provided an opportunity for Pacific Island Countries to discuss inputs for a Pacific specific focus at the next High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness which will be held in Accra from September 2 - 4, 2008.

Bee Ean Gooi, Senior Operations Officer at the World Bank briefed

participants on the objectives of the Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness at the workshop in Nadi as well as mechanisms for Pacific Island countries to engage in this process. She said this forum provided a mid term stock-take of the Paris Declaration, which was agreed to by countries and development partners in 2005 and focused on five key principles: ownership, alignment, harmonisation, managing for results and mutual accountability.

"The Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness seeks to review the

implementation of and supplement the Paris Declaration," said Ms Gooi. She said she was impressed by the feedback received from the Pacific Island representatives on issues relating to aid effectiveness and encouraged them to follow the procedures that could allow these views to be reflected at the Accra High Level Forum.

The third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness will review the implementation of the Paris Declaration, reinforce country leadership and ownership and address emerging

issues. It will be structured around three complementary segments - the Marketplace of Ideas, providing room for sharing knowledge and presenting innovative ideas; the Ministerial segment, addressing key policy level concerns and addressing the Accra Agenda for Action; the nine round-table discussions providing space for in-depth dialogue on selected topics which include; situations of fragility and conflicts, role of civil society in conflicts, strengthening mutual accountability and managing for development results and impacts.



Talking Aid with Tom Beloe

Aid Effectiveness Specialist,
UNDP Regional Centre Bangkok

Can you explain what aid effectiveness means?

Making aid work better for poor people. The agenda is about improving the quality of aid. It is recognised that some aid is not delivered well - it may, in the worst of those cases not contribute anything to development processes, and in others, aid may be delivered in ways that are not as effective as they could be and thus if delivered differently, more could be achieved for poor people. For example, when aid comes with strings attached such as when a donor insists that their country's consultants or technologies are used in implementation - then this aid may not be working as well as it might towards the interests of the poor and national development.

What are the different aspects of aid effectiveness?

The foundation of aid effectiveness is built on country ownership and building development partnerships that support this ownership. Governments, which have signed up to the Paris Declaration (or associated regional and national frameworks like the Pacific Principles) have committed to strengthening their own development plans and their leadership of aid partnerships. Likewise donors are signed up to supporting government systems; reducing the burden they place on governments (eg reducing the number of meetings they request

or the very different demands that different donors impose); and ensuring that they support government's accountability for aid programming to its citizens (not only to donors themselves).

Why has there been a need for the third High Level Forum on Aid effectiveness to take place?

We are half way between the signing of the Paris Declaration and the deadline for its targets 2010. So donors, governments and civil society need to take stock on progress; identify any key concerns and challenges that are barriers to progress and identify key actions that can accelerate achievement of the Paris Declaration. It is also a good opportunity to help bring more stakeholders into the agenda - new donors and foundations - as well as to strengthen momentum in areas where progress has been slow. Although it should be noted that given its inception in 2005 - the Paris Declaration implementation has moved quickly.

What can the Pacific Island countries hope to get from the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA)?

In one sense they can hope to get what they put into it - if there are good ideas and suggestions for commitments to be made then countries should be proposing them to the HLF organizers. The website has details - www.accrahlf.net

They can also hope to see international commitments that progress key issues relevant to their countries around conditionality; predictability or increased support for aid management but these commitments will only be developed if countries support them - so they will need to contribute ideas.

How was the Regional Pacific Aid Effectiveness workshop useful in preparing the Pacific Islands input into AAA?

The organisers of the regional consultations on the HLF in Asia and the Pacific were represented at the meeting by ADB, World Bank and UNDP. They will carry the messages in the Outcome document from the workshop to Round Table co-chairs as well as to the High Level Forum Steering Committee - so direct contributions have already been made to the AAA. Further comments are welcomed.

We know that you have been working with a number of countries in Asia, what, if any, do you think would be different for PICs?

The discussion at the workshop highlighted the different challenges in capacity building for small island countries as well as for countries with scattered populations. The issue of regional cooperation came out perhaps more strongly in the Pacific than in some other regions of Asia and the Pacific.

Thinking about the workshop, what do you take away from it as the most important key messages: i) for donors, ii) for partner countries; iii) for UNDP?

Strong demand for donors to support governments in managing

their aid in pursuit of excellence. This demand is for resources in supporting aid management strategy but also in living up to commitments on delivering aid in line with Pacific Principles and aid effectiveness best practice.

Donors are likely to continue to integrate aid effectiveness objectives within their aid delivery (following the HLF3) but they will also increasingly request government to strengthen the clarity of their policy and practice on aid management.

There is a strong role that UNDP can play with other donors in making sure that the Pacific Principles and best practice in aid effectiveness are implemented across the region. We should continue to support partner countries in this endeavour.

In what ways can UNDP assist Pacific Island countries to manage aid?

We can help - alongside other donors - in supporting government to develop robust aid effectiveness policy and strategy.

Helping governments determine how many donors they want per sector; how they would like to improve their Public Financial Management systems to be fit for aid support through treasury; how they would like to monitor aid flows and projects and programmes to ensure that they are in line with government policies such as on their use of parallel project implementation units or foreign technical assistance.

Together with government in the region UNDP can help ensure that the quality of aid is continuously improved to the benefit of poor men and women - this should be our common goal.

Paris Principles

What: A set of commitments developed to manage aid so as to increase the impact aid has in reducing poverty and inequality, increasing growth, building capacity and accelerating achievement of the MDGs. These commitments include ownership, alignment, harmonisation, managing for results and mutual accountability.

When: 2 March 2005

Where: High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Paris

Why: To reform the ways in which aid is delivered and managed by taking far-reaching and monitorable actions

Who: Ministers of developed and developing countries responsible for promoting development and Heads of multilateral and bilateral development institutions agreed to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

Paris Principles and the Pacific: Five Pacific Island countries have signed up to Paris Declaration; Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands and Tonga. Samoa has very recently endorsed the Paris Principles. The remaining Pacific Island countries have not formally endorsed the Paris Declaration, but capacity building efforts on public financial management by donor partners have addressed the importance of improving aid effectiveness in order to produce better development results. Pacific Island countries, have, however, adopted the Pacific Principles on Aid Effectiveness, which are derived from the Paris Declaration and are designed to fit the Pacific context.

Where from now: The Paris Principles will be reviewed at the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Third HLF) held in Accra, Ghana from September 2- 4, 2008. The Third HLF will be attended by ministers from over 100 countries, heads of bilateral and multilateral development agencies, donor organizations, and civil society organizations from around the world. Their common objective is to help developing countries and marginalized people in their fight against poverty by making aid more transparent, accountable and results-oriented.

The Third HLF will:

- review progress in improving aid effectiveness
- broaden the dialogue to newer actors
- chart a course for continuing international action on aid effectiveness

For more on the Third HLF visit <http://www.accrahlf.net>

Learning More About Capacity Development and Assessment

Capacity development is an integral part of the work that UNDP does.

It has always been a part of UNDP projects but now it has been brought to the forefront in the UNDP Strategic Plan 2008 – 2011 which emphasises that capacity development is UNDP's "over-arching contribution" to global human development efforts.

The United Nations staff in Fiji had a chance to know more about capacity development and capacity assessment during a recent workshop in Suva.

The Capacity Development and Capacity Assessment training course was organized by the UNDP Pacific Centre and conducted by Niloy Banerjee and Bob Bernardo, members of the Capacity Development team at the UNDP Regional Centre Bangkok.

UNDP defines capacity as "the ability of individuals, institutions and societies to perform functions, solve problems, and set and achieve objectives in a sustainable manner."

Capacity development is thereby the process through which the

abilities to do so are obtained, strengthened, adapted and maintained over time.

Capacity development is also seen by UNDP as a primarily endogenous and domestically driven process.

The UNDP Strategic Plan 2008 – 2011 emphasises that capacity development is UNDP's "over-arching contribution" to global human development efforts, and that UNDP's efforts to support programme countries to develop national and local capacities for human development and achievement of the MDGs will be guided by three principles – national ownership, effective aid management, and South-South co-operation.

It further notes that "UNDP will seek to strengthen national capacities in four areas of comparative advantage aligned with the values and objectives of the Millennium Declaration: poverty reduction and MDGs; democratic governance;

"UNDP will seek to strengthen national capacities in four areas of comparative advantage aligned with the values and objectives of the Millennium Declaration: poverty reduction and MDGs; democratic governance; crisis prevention and recovery; and environment and sustainable development".

UNDP Strategic Plan 2008-2011

crisis prevention and recovery; and environment and sustainable development".

The vital role played by capacity development in ensuring the effectiveness of development projects was also discussed. The workshop also noted that against the background of a global commitment to fighting poverty, and pledges to increase the volume of aid, the capacities to negotiate, manage, oversee and effectively utilise development finance for human development ends has acquired even greater urgency; and this is reflected in the Millennium Summit Declaration, Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Outcome Document of the World Summit.

In closing the workshop, Garry Wiseman, UNDP Pacific Centre manager said that the training demonstrated that while capacity development was not a panacea to all development needs, it did provide a more organised way of meeting development needs.



Capacity Development and Capacity Assessment Training: Above: Bob Bernardo (L) attends to Brian Lenga's (Fiji MCO) query

Left: Pacific Centre's Herman Timmermans (L) discusses a point with colleague Ernesto Bautista and Emma Mario (Fiji MCO)



Pacific Centre Staff Graduate

Two Pacific Centre staff graduated with post graduate qualifications from the University of the South Pacific in April.

Nanise Saune, who joined the Pacific Centre as a Programme Associate last year graduated with a Post Graduate Diploma in Development Studies.

Shobhna Decloitre, the Media, Communications and Advocacy Associate, who has been with the Pacific Centre since 2006, graduated with a Master of Arts degree in Governance.

Both new graduates are happy to have completed their respective

study programmes and both agree that juggling their hectic work life with student life was challenging.

Meanwhile, Roderic Evers, the Pacific Regional Entrepreneurship Development Specialist has left the Pacific Centre to join the private sector. A member of the Poverty Alleviation and Achievement of MDGs team, he had been with the Centre since its inception.

The Pacific Centre also welcomed Sefanaia Tudonu on board as the Centre's first Executive Assistant in February. He provides administra-



Academic achievers: Nanise Saune (L) obtained a Post Graduate Diploma in Development Studies and Shobhna Decloitre (R) graduated with a Master of Arts in Governance

tion support to the Executive Office composed of the Centre Manager and Deputy Manager. He brings with him years of public sector experience.

Perfecting Procurement Skills

UNDP procurement procedures often cause many challenges to staff dealing directly and indirectly in the area of obtaining goods and services for their work.

Often, unclear understanding or misinterpretation of procedures leads to much frustration amongst staff and partners alike.

In order to promote better understanding of procurement procedures and address frequently encountered issues of concern, the

UNDP Pacific Centre together with the UNDP Fiji Multi Country Office (MCO) organized a workshop with Bryan Cook, the Regional Chief Procurement Officer based at the Regional Centre Bangkok.

He conducted a two-day long training for procurement and programme staff and covered practical issues and difficulties faced on a day to day basis.

The Pacific Centre and Fiji Multi-Country Office have fairly large

procurement expenditure and the challenges of delivering the many types of procurement and contracts in the Pacific are significant.

Setting the tone of the workshop, Garry Wiseman, Manager of the UNDP Pacific Centre said that for many UNDP staff the challenge was to understand the balance between procurement obligations and development aspirations, and ensuring that one did not impact negatively on the other.

He added that understanding the procurement rules established by UNDP would greatly assist staff in their daily work as well as their efforts in explaining UNDP procedures to external partners with whom UNDP works to develop capacities.

The workshop was attended by UNDP staff in Fiji, Samoa, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. It provided a forum for exchange of experiences and discussions on solutions for procurement challenges in the Pacific.



Procurement experts: Regional Chief Procurement Officer Bryan Cook (R), UNDP Pacific Centre Deputy Manager Lenka Tucek and UNDP Fiji MCO's Operations Manager Michael Lal (L)

Latest Knowledge Products



Pacific Centre Annual Report 2007

This is the 2007 Annual Report of the Pacific Centre which provides highlights of the key achievements of the Centre in 2007.

http://regionalcentrepacific.undp.org.fj/Files/Publications/PC_Annual_Report_2007.pdf



The Mauritius Strategy, MDGs and the Pacific Plan: Foundations for Sustainable Development in the Pacific

This knowledge product is a collection of 10 inserts with details of specific aspects of the Mauritius Strategy and how it links to the achievement of MDGs and the Pacific Plan.

http://regionalcentrepacific.undp.org.fj/Files/Publications/Mauritius_Strategy_KP.pdf

MDG Workshop Reports



Sub Regional MDG Based Workshop for North Pacific Countries

This publication is the workshop report from the Sub Regional MDG Based workshop held in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia from 26 - 29 June, 2007.

The workshop was attended by government and CSO representatives from the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands and Palau.

http://regionalcentrepacific.undp.org.fj/Files/Publications/MDGs_North_Pacific_Workshop_Report.pdf



Sub Regional MDG Based Workshop for Western Pacific Countries

This publication is the workshop report from the Sub Regional MDG Based workshop held in Honiara, Solomon Islands, from 12-15 November, 2007.

The workshop was attended by government and CSO representatives from the Fiji, Nauru, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

http://regionalcentrepacific.undp.org.fj/Files/Publications/MDG_Workshop_Report_for_Western_Pacific.pdf

PASIFIKA Focus is a publication of the UNDP Pacific Centre.

UNDP Pacific Centre focuses on specific issues within the practice areas of UNDP that impact on small vulnerable island countries of the sub region. The primary focus of the Pacific Centre is to deliver policy and technical advice and build capacity of Pacific Island countries to respond more effectively to the development challenges of the region.

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Upcoming Events

Training of Trainers for Pacific Institute of Peace Building and Development (PIPAD) June 16 - 27, Fiji

PIPAD is a Pacific resource which will engage Pacific leadership in government and civil society in learning encounters, to build a critical, competent practice in peace building and development. It is housed within the Crisis Prevention and Recovery Project of the UNDP Pacific Centre. The Training of Trainers will provide intensive training on PIPAD modules and methods of teaching for regional and international resources personnel who have been selected to be part of the PIPAD trainers.

Freedom of Information Workshop for Pacific Policy Makers June 30 - July 2, Solomon Islands

This workshop aims to prepare policy makers for the rollout of Freedom of Information in selected Pacific Island Countries.