

SPC advisory

Climate change mainstreaming profiles for small island states in the Pacific

Friday 13 December 2013, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Suva, Fiji –

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) has assisted nine Pacific countries in their efforts to access international climate finance through the provision of specialist reviews examining the state of climate change mainstreaming across national and sector policies, plans and budgets in each country.

The reviews were funded by the European Union through the SPC-implemented Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project. They are accessible on the SPC website through the GCCA: PSIS page <http://www.spc.int/en/our-work/climate-change/gcca.html> and via the following shortened hyperlinks.

Cook Islands - bit.ly/19d4xFc

Federated States of Micronesia – bit.ly/IYJtI7

Kiribati – bit.ly/IMvPrb

Marshall Islands – bit.ly/1diK550

Nauru – bit.ly/1e1DBfn

Niue – bit.ly/1bsSPpA

Palau – bit.ly/1brB3Q7

Tonga – bit.ly/18xeYmd

Tuvalu – bit.ly/1cwXjg1

Each review explores national climate change objectives, the coordination and linkages between policies and plans, and the institutional arrangements and financial and budgetary processes supporting climate change policies. The reviews, based on publicly available reports and information, provide findings and make specific recommendations to assist these countries in the consideration of climate-related risks and responses in national development planning.

The reviews were discussed at a regional meeting on climate change finance using budget support modalities held in Tonga from 25–27 September 2013. The meeting, organised by SPC and funded by the European Union, was attended by 60 representatives of climate change and finance ministries from GCCA: PSIS participating countries, together with development partners and technical experts.

Key issues that emerged during the meeting were:

- access to climate change financing requires sound national systems, clear plans and policies, strong institutional systems, adequate resourcing and staffing of departments, regular reporting processes, and sound public financial management systems;

- Many small island states in the Pacific view planning and budgeting as separate activities, but there is a need to view these as a continuous integrated process with policies, plans and strategies linked to budgets and forward estimates.
- Direct budget support indicates a trust relationship between the donor and the recipient country and an endorsement of government policy; it is also a way to improve domestic accountability.

The exchanges between national representatives at the regional meeting assisted in the sharing of lessons between Pacific countries that have received national budget support for climate change and those that have not. These exchanges develop the capacity for informed decision making in the region.

The report of the meeting and related documents are available on the SPC website through the GCCA: PSIS page <http://www.spc.int/en/our-work/climate-change/gcca.html>.

The European Union and SPC are supporting nationally-led climate change adaptation projects in nine countries through the GCCA: PSIS project, valued at € 11.4 million (approximately USD 15.6 million).

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