



## **ACP-EU BUILDING SAFETY AND RESILIENCE IN THE PACIFIC**

This project is funded by the European Union

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### **PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION SHEET**

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# 1. GENERAL

## INTRODUCTION

This project, titled: ***ACP-EU Building Safety & Resilience in the Pacific*** is the Pacific component of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF Intra-ACP envelope for Disaster Risk Reduction. It corresponds directly to priorities identified under the 2009 EU Strategy for Supporting Disaster Risk Reduction in Developing Countries and its implementation plan.

## BACKGROUND

The high vulnerability of Pacific Island ACP States (PICs) to a number of environmental and natural hazards is well known. This vulnerability is further exacerbated by their small land areas as well as their narrow, often subsistence-based fragile economies, coupled with physical distance both within and between states. Current analysis suggests that PICs remain disaster prone and that the economic impacts of such natural events pose severe development constraints.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) measures reduce vulnerability and prevent the loss of lives, assets and livelihoods thereby reducing the exposure of governments to divert substantial national resources from development to relief, recovery and reconstruction when disasters strike and to build safety and resilience of their communities. In this regard, the project will mainstream DRR/Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) at national and regional levels, filling in the gap between humanitarian assistance and development as well as by serving as an anchor initiative to leverage DRR coordinated efforts in the region and integrating DRR and CCA into national and sector strategies.

# 2. ABOUT THE PROJECT

## OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the project is to reduce the vulnerability as well as the social, economic and environmental costs of disasters caused by natural hazards, thereby achieving regional and national sustainable development and poverty reduction goals in ACP Pacific Island States (PICs).

## PURPOSE

The project's purpose is to strengthen the capacity of PICs to address existing and emerging challenges with regard to the risks posed by natural hazards and related disasters, while maximising synergies between Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA).

## EXPECTED RESULTS & MAIN ACTIVITIES

**R1 - Effective preparedness, response and recovery:** responds to the need for national and regional response plans, end-to-end Early Warning Systems (EWS), emergency and evacuation centres, access to safe drinking water to mitigate against drought.

**R2 - Strengthened institutional arrangements for DRM and CCA:** responds to the need for Joint National Action Plans (JNAPs) as well as to the integration of DRM and CCA into national and sector strategies, planning and budgetary processes.

**R3 - Improved knowledge, information, public awareness, training and education:** the emphasis is on building awareness of risks, risk exposure through the provision of hazard and risk information through regional and local databases, strengthening human and technical capacity in a range of priority areas, production of knowledge products and related awareness.

**R4 - Improved understanding of natural hazards and the reduction of underlying risks:** addresses gaps in baseline scientific, technical, social and economic understanding of hazard impact and addresses underlying risks created by changing social, economic, environmental conditions and resources.

**R5 - Enhanced partnerships in DRM and Climate Change:** responds to the need for an integrated regional strategy for DRM and Climate Change, strengthening of the Pacific Islands Emergency

Management Alliance, enhanced hazard risk management, enhances information management, facilitation of financing and integration of DRR into the work programmes of CROP agencies (Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific).

## **BENEFICIARIES**

The beneficiaries of the project are the 15 Pacific ACP States: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

## **STAKEHOLDERS**

Groups specifically targeted are:

**National Governments** - benefitting from strengthened response plans, warning systems and decision making tools as well as trained personnel and reduction overall of the costs of disasters;

**Communities** – benefitting from a better understanding of risks, hazards and warnings via use of effective early warning systems that result in reduced loss of life. Preparing local communities for disaster by strengthening their resilience can be significantly accelerated and this project will make investments in DRR at community level (including schools);

**Civil society organisations** – whilst not all such groups may have the necessary skills, capacity, others may be quite capable at community awareness and outreach. A strong partnership with civil society organisations, utilities and private sector will be developed;

**Utilities and the private sector** – responsible for much of essential infrastructure and often having skills and capabilities that governments may not possess. A strong partnership with such groups will help bring additional national capacity to bear, and more importantly provide technical capability in maintaining and finding the required solutions.

## **LOCATION**

The main headquarters of the project will be at the Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (SOPAC) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in Suva, Fiji.

## **DURATION**

The implementation period of the project will be 55 months effective from 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

## **COST**

The total project cost is €19,367,000.

## **3. OPERATIONS**

### **PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM**

There will be a 6-member project management team headed by a Project Manager. Five project staff including the Project Manager will be based in Suva. One of the project staff will be based at the SPC North Pacific Regional Office in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia and will be responsible for supervising project activities in FSM, Marshall Islands and Palau. Overall project management and the supervision of project activities for all other Pacific ACP States will be undertaken by the Suva-based staff.

### **NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS (NFP)**

The head of the national DRM agency/NDMO, or official designate thereof, will be the official national focal point for the project. The head of the national DRM agency/NDMO is required to officially inform SPC/SOPAC in writing of the name and contact details of the national focal point

## **REGIONAL FOCAL POINT (RFP)**

The RFP will be the Project Manager of the EDF10 BSRP project.

## **STEERING COMMITTEES**

The project will be led by Regional Steering Committee (RSC) which will meet each year in the margins of the annual Regional Disaster Managers Meeting convened by SPC. The RSC is comprised of Disaster Managers from Pacific island countries and territories. The Pacific Delegation of the European Union will participate in RSC meetings alongside SPC.

At the national level, each beneficiary state will convene a National Steering Committee (NSC) comprising of representatives from the Government, civil society, community, private sector, representatives of vulnerable groups (as may be applicable) to provide oversight of the project. There will also be observer status participation on each NSC by the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO).

The NSC can be constituted using a suitable existing mechanism at the national level. The secretariat function for the NSC is the responsibility of the national DRM agency/National Disaster Management Office. SPC will provide support to the national DRM agency/NDMO in relation to the functioning of the NSC.

## **ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE**

Examples of expenditure which are eligible for funding under the project are:

**Equipment** - e.g. early warning sirens, emergency radio communications, mobile evacuation shelter kits, automatic weather stations

**Facilities** - e.g. emergency operations centres (buildings and mobile EOCs), emergency shelters,

**Scientific and technical data** acquisition/development - e.g. bathymetry to enable tsunami/flood inundation modelling

**Data, information and knowledge management** e.g. establishment/strengthening of DRM information portals; education materials to inform teacher resource kits

**Training, workshops, professional attachments and meetings** e.g. training in post disaster needs assessments; formal education courses

**Reports and publications** e.g. publishing/printing of revised building codes and regulations that support more resilient structures

**Technical Assistance** e.g. consultancy support to revise DRM governance and operational arrangements

## **VISIBILITY**

SPC will develop a Visibility Plan for the project which will be submitted for the approval of the Regional Steering Committee. At the national level, the National Focal Points will be required to support efforts for project visibility using the relevant media.

## **MONITORING, EVALUATION & REPORTING**

For each year during the project implementation period SPC will submit an annual narrative and financial progress report to the EU. The compilation of the reports will be carried out at a regional level and will require the cooperation and assistance of National Focal Points. A project audit will also be undertaken each year.

In addition, the project will be subject to an external annual monitoring process (commonly referred to as Result-Oriented Monitoring or ROM) and as well a mid-term and end-of-term evaluation. National Focal Points will be required to assist these processes.