

Climate change, regulatory change and regionalism in the Pacific

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Regional policy context

- Long history of regional cooperation and coordination, due to capacity constraints, lack of resources and a commonality of challenges faced.
- Regional agencies established for assisting countries.
- Cooperate through the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP), and prominent in supporting requests of their Members.

About SPREP

- The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) works with 21 Pacific island Members, technical advice, capacity building on environmental and development priorities
- Sustainable development and co-operation in the region. Foremost agency on climate change and lead coordinator

Climate change

- Leaders recognise climate change to be the biggest threat facing the region.
- Climate change is a dynamic, fast-moving, and SPREP is well placed as a leader, coordinator, and implementer in its areas of competence and expertise.
- Historically only agency on climate change but greater involvement of others now

PCCC

- Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC), regional hub for inclusive collaboration and coordination on climate change priorities of Pacific.
- Organisations working on climate change will have a conduit for collaboration for focussing and coordinating effort
- PCCC direct benefit of Pacific, delivery of climate change and disaster risk management knowledge and services

Coordination

- SPREP coordinated regional projects on policy development. PIGGAREP looked at institutional, technical and regulatory barriers to renewable energy.
- Countries enabling environments changed to be more conducive to introduction of renewable energy.
- PIFACC established advisory aspects of climate change, discussions under the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable, and for the establishment of the Pacific Climate Change Portal.

New developments

- Countries developed Joint National Action Plans for climate change and disaster
- Led to regional Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific – Pacific Resilience Partnership
- Thematic working groups eg for RE there is the Pacific Energy Advisory Group to assist low carbon development

Key lessons

- Common challenges – common approaches can work – knowledge, cooperation and coordination
- Country priorities drives regional approach
- Bottom-up/top-down view
- National decision making through councils, supported by agency expertise
- Requires effort, not all have equal capacity

Key lessons

- Capacity supplementation, targeted expertise, specific tasks (project writing, CBA, gender plans etc)
- Pac Met Services – modular training, basic common skills supported
- Regional approaches have challenges, but they have served the region well. It requires country ownership and technical support from regional agencies.



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