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FACTSHEET

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Climate Change Policy Programme



IN 2002, A WORLD BANK ASSESSMENT DETERMINED THAT A LACK OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION MEASURES ON THE MAIN ISLAND VITI LEVU IN FIJI, WOULD BY 2050 COST US\$23-52 MILLION ANNUALLY.

Although countries in the South Pacific region collectively emit far below 1% of total global green house gases responsible for climate change, the region and its island countries remain amongst the most vulnerable to its negative impacts. This includes temperature variability, storm surges, sea level rise changes in rainfall pattern, coral bleaching and other impacts that threaten biodiversity and ecosystem services, thus affecting food and water supply, livelihoods and the wellbeing of coastal communities across the region. Additionally due to the predominant developing nature of many of Pacific island countries, few have an independent capacity to effectively address the issue of global mitigation through effective international negotiations or undertake large scale in country adaptation.

The Programme Goal is “By end of 2014, actions from key Pacific Island Countries and Civil Society Organisations have resulted in national and global actions that set the world on a course to reduce GHG emissions by at least 80% of 1990 levels by 2050, and start providing vulnerable countries in the region the resources and capacities required adaptation responses”. The target objectives of the programme for the region and to be accomplished within the five year cycle (2010-2014) include:

- Strengthened national and regional CSO's and key government agencies for climate change advocacy engagement through effective capacity building and education awareness
- Enhancing the negotiating capacity of focal Pacific Island governments to ensure the uptake of Pacific priorities in the UNFCCC, regional and international climate policy negotiations
- Strengthened regional coordination of Climate Action Network (CAN) groups through capacity building and source funding to drive independent national climate campaigns in the Pacific, and enhance greater Pacific representation and participation in international climate policy negotiations
- Leveraging funding to undertake adaptation related activities within the region.

United Pacific Front for a New Global Climate Deal

The core focus of this WWF Programme will be to consolidate regional efforts to address these two issues effectively, firstly mitigation through greater regional participation, lobbying and negotiation for a fair, equitable and stronger responsibility driven, new global treaty that adequately addresses climate change, a Post 2012 treaty and secure regional financial support effectively implement adaptation strategies. Additionally the programme will drive focal national scale mitigation campaign strategies to reduce energy use and regional dependency for fossil fuels, through the promotion and advocacy for renewable energy sources.

Conservation the Low Cost Deal for Pacific Adaptation

Secondly across the Pacific Islands region, there has been a growing consensus on the need to diffuse 'on-the-ground' actions to larger national and regional scale climate change adaptation and implementation. With regard to adaptation, this programme will advocate for complimentary community-based climate adaptation and sustainable resource management approaches that will strengthen national climate adaptation strategies and ensure that they are achievable and cost-effective. One of the most effective strategies will be to maintain the health and integrity of the marine ecosystems, including strategic mangrove areas, to reduce the potential stress on reef and coastal systems caused by increasing temperatures and more frequent storm surges. Aside from the added value of sustaining marine biodiversity and enhancing fisheries, this strengthens local food security and community resiliency.

Presence in the Region

WWF through the programme maintains regional support and engagement for its advocacy, campaign and capacity building work through the Pacific Climate Action Network (CAN) which is active in the Cook Islands, Tuvalu, Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati and Fiji. Much of the programmes adaptation related work has been focused in Fiji, which primarily focuses on mangroves through its community marine protected areas initiatives as a means for low cost coastal resiliency building and to advocate for integrated ecosystem based approaches to adaptation in Fiji, climate smart and sustainable development planning into national climate change and related national policy frameworks and programmes. This approach for a developing country such as Fiji is not only a cost effective means of adapting to climate change but also enhances complimentary benefits such as food and water security and sustaining local livelihoods and income.

Programme Highlights

Earth Hour: A key annual campaign initiative of the programme, which emphasizes the importance of simple mitigation strategies to reduce energy use. The programme has been active in promoting the initiative across the region through the PCAN.

Pacific Mangroves People and Livelihoods Campaign: This campaign has been developed as part of the programmes effort to raise the profile of mangroves across the region not only as means for adaptation and coastal resiliency building but also enhancing fisheries for food security for island communities.



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Bringing About Change

To ensure Pacific island interests are effectively presented and considered during international climate change negotiations and that there is international commitment and guarantee for sufficient adaptation funding for effective adaptation implementation across the region, the programme consistently work to deliver its core objectives through:

- National and regional lobbying and policy supporting integrated approaches to adaptation streamlining
- Capacity building for enhanced national, regional and international climate change negotiations
- Climate change Awareness, Education and Campaigns
- Strategic and Complementary Partnerships, nationally and within the region
- Leveraging funds to enhance the programme scope and targets and supporting regional climate change networks and initiatives.
- Cross level and sectoral approaches to field adaptation activities and considerations made for complimenting integrated approaches such as ecosystem based management conservation.

For more information

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Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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