Disaster Resilience in the Pacific Small Island Developing States (RESPAC)

Mid Term Review Final Report

Prepared by Tony Elliott | MTR Consultant | June 2019

RESPAC

With financial support from the Russian Federation

UNDP

Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

Acknowledgements

The consultant acknowledges with thanks the individuals who took the time to provide their valuable insights and feedback on the project. These include officials from: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Disaster Resilience in the Pacific Small Island Developing States (RESPAC) project team and the Pacific Financial Inclusion Project (PFIP) in Fiji; the Ministry of Development Planning & Aid-Co-ordination, Solomon Islands; the National Disaster Management Offices of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu; the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) of Cook Islands, Fiji and Tonga; the University of the South Pacific (USP); and the Pacific Meteorological Desk of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The consultant also extends his gratitude to the UNDP RESPAC Project Manager, Associate Project Manager and all other members of the project team for their hospitality and support during his mission to Fiji.

Project and Evaluation Information

Project/outcome Information		
Project/outcome title	Disaster Resilience for Pacific SIDS (RESPAC)	
Atlas Project ID	00098523	
Corporate outcome and output	Expected RBAP Regional Programme Document Outcome 3	Countries are able to reduce the likelihood of conflict, and lower the risks of natural disasters, including from climate change
	Expected Outputs as stated in the UNDP Pacific Regional Project Document	**Output 3.1:** Effective institutional, legislative and policy frameworks in place to enhance the implementation of disaster and climate risk management measures at national and sub-national levels **Output 3.2:** Preparedness systems in place to effectively address the consequences of and response to natural hazards (geophysical and climate-related) and man-made crisis at all levels of government and community
Country	Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau (territory), Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu	
Region	South West Pacific	
Date project document signed	11 April 2016	
Project dates	**Start**	**Planned end**
	1 June 2016	31 December 2019
Project budget	USD7,500,000	
Project expenditure at the time of Mid Term Review	USD4,143,937 (as of 15 April 2019)	
Funding source	Government of the Russian Federation	
Implementing party	UNDP Pacific Office	

Evaluation Information		
Evaluation type	Project performance and viability and progress towards achieving project's objectives and goals	
Final/midterm review/other	Mid Term Review	
Period under evaluation	**Start**	**End**
	01 June 2016	31 December 2018 *(with updates to 31 March 2019 as available)*
Evaluator	Tony Elliott	
Evaluator email address	rcaelliott@gmail.com	
Evaluation dates	**Start**	**End**
	01 April 2019	14 June 2019

Contents

Acronyms

APR	Annual Project Review
ATLAS	Corporate Planning System
AWOS	Aviation Weather Observation System
AWP	Annual Work Plan
AWS	Automatic Weather Station
BOM	Bureau of Meteorology (Australia)
BRH	Bangkok Regional Hub (UNDP)
CLEWS	Climate Early Warning System
CLEWSPIC	Climate Early Warning Systems in Pacific Island Countries
CLiDE	Climate Data for the Environment
CPP	Country Preparedness Package
DRF	Disaster Recovery Framework
EREP	Earthquake Recovery Plan
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
EU	European Union
FMS	Fiji Meteorological Service
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
GEF	Global Environment Facility
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MCII	Munich Climate Insurance Initiative
MHEWS	Multi Hazard Early Warning System
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTR	Mid Term Review
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
NIWA	National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (New Zealand)
NMHS	National Meteorological and Hydrological Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (USA)
PDaIo	Pacific Damage and Loss Assessment
PDN	Pacific Disaster Net
PDNA	Post Disaster Needs Assessment
PERF	Pacific Early Recovery Fund
PFIP	Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme

PHT	Pacific Humanitarian Team
PICs	Pacific Island Countries
PICOF	Pacific Island Climate Outlook Forum
PICT	Pacific Island Countries and Territories
PIETR	Pacific Islands Education Training and Research panel (of PMC)
PIMMM	Pacific Islands Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology
PMC	Pacific Meteorological Council
PMU	Project Management Unit
PRCRAI	Pacific Regional Climate Risk Adaptation and Insurance
PREP	Pacific Resilience Programme
ProDoc	Project Document
QPRs	Quarterly Project Reports
RBAP	Regional Bureau for Asia Pacific (UNDP)
RBM	Results Based Management
RESPAC	Disaster Resilience in the Pacific Small Island Developing States
RMI	Republic of Marshall Islands
RRF	Results and Resources Framework
RTC	Regional Training Centre
SIDS	Small Island Developing State
SOPAC	Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (of SPC)
SPC	Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TC	Tropical Cyclone
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (formerly UNISDR)
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNPS	United Nations Pacific Strategy
USP	University of the South Pacific
WBR	World Bank Report
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

Executive Summary

This report presents the results and findings of the Mid Term Review (MTR) of the project "Disaster Resilience in the Pacific Small Island Developing States (RESPAC)". The project is funded by the Government of the Russian Federation within the framework of the Russian Federation – UNDP Trust Fund for Development with a grant of USD7.5 million and is being implemented by the UNDP Pacific Office under the UNDP Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) and managed by the Resilience and Sustainable Development team in Suva, Fiji. The project was approved in March 2016 with an implementation period of June 2016 – December 2019.

The primary objectives of the MTR are to evaluate the overall performance and viability of the project and to assess to what extent it has contributed to its primary goal as described in the original ProDoc. It also assesses how relevant it has been to the needs of its core stakeholders and assesses the justification for a possible no-cost extension.

The MTR addresses three key questions:

1. Has the project thus far been able to deliver on its key objectives and goals as defined in the ProDoc?
2. Is the project relevant to its stakeholders and beneficiaries and is there acknowledgement and appreciation of the work carried out by the project?
3. What, if any, changes are required to the project design and scope so that it may strategically develop and deliver more sustainable results for its core stakeholders?

The intended primary audience for this report is the UNDP Pacific Office, the Russian Federation and the national, regional and international partners that are either the beneficiaries of or have contributed technical advice to the project.

The MTR methodology has been entirely qualitative and restricted to key informant interviews and review of available project documents. An evaluation matrix was used as a general guide for the MTR to follow. The following sources of primary data and information were collected:

1. Desk-top review of key project documents;
2. Face-to-face consultations with UNDP and other stakeholders as available in Fiji using semi-structured interviews with a set of key questions.
3. Skype/telephone consultations with other key stakeholders as available during the Mid Term Review mission using the same set of questions.

Fourteen countries and one territory are being supported by the project: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau (territory), Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

The project was designed to support the PICs in planning and preparing for climate and disaster risk, and to assist them to develop the resilience to withstand and recover from the impact of disaster events and its overall project goal is to effectively address the consequences of, and responses to, climate related hazards. Progress towards this goal was aimed to be achieved through the implementation of activities designed to deliver the following three outputs.

OUTPUT 1: Strengthened gender sensitive early warning systems and climate monitoring capacity in Pacific Island Countries;

OUTPUT 2: Preparedness and planning mechanisms and tools to manage disaster recovery processes strengthened at regional, national and local level; and

OUTPUT 3: Increased use of financial instruments to manage and share disaster related risk and fund post disaster recovery efforts.

Partnership with regional and national agencies has been a cornerstone in the co-ordination, management and implementation of the project. At the national level, the National Meteorological and Hydrological Service (NMHS) and National Disaster Management Offices (NDMO)/National Emergency Management Offices have been important partners in the implementation of relevant activities in their countries. Partnership with regional agencies has been important to avoid duplication of effort, capitalise on synergies/ complementarities and to optimise the overall impact of the project in a region where there are many other actors and interventions addressing similar national needs. Key amongst these has been the partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Pacific Community (SPC) both of which have active and complementary programmes in the region. Partnership with the USP is also being developed in the context of the proposed Regional Training Centre (RTC). The internal UNDP partnership forged between the RESPAC project and the PFIP is a good example of two projects with complementary objectives collaborating to deliver cost-efficient outputs without duplication of effort.

The following are the key findings and conclusions of the Mid Term Review:

1. Project Strategy and Design

The project design was well researched and the intervention logic and implementation strategy were based on: consultations with National Meteorological Services and Ministries, the institutional context and the problems to be addressed and is considered to be highly relevant to regional and national beneficiaries and other stakeholders. It also identified the important regional partners to engage with as well as the UN agencies active in the region. Good descriptions of the purpose of each output are provided in the ProDoc with activity result areas designed to achieve the outputs also well described. However, the comprehensive lists of indicative activities for each activity result area is considered excessive. The Results and Resources Framework (RRF) was revised and simplified during the inception phase with the number of activities streamlined and additional output indicators and targets introduced. However, the original output targets from the Project Document (ProDoc) were retained with the result given the many disconnects between the newly introduced sub-activities, their indicators and targets and the targets carried over from the ProDoc.

2. Project Implementation and Adaptive Management

The project management structure is considered inclusive and is operating effectively to produce results and provide strategic guidance. The support provided by UNDP was rated very highly by all interviewees and there was high praise for the project team. The interviewees also appreciated UNDP's flexibility to adapt the project workplan to changing circumstances and requirements. A distinctive feature of the RESPAC project is the successful engagement with national and regional stakeholders. Strong relationships and partnerships have been developed and nurtured by the project team. Communication between UNDP and the regional and national stakeholders has been excellent and the RESPAC project team has received high praise from the key informant interviewees for its "hands-on" approach and for keeping the stakeholder well-informed.

RESPAC has made the news on many occasions as evidenced by the many links to newspaper stories in the Annual Reports. However, the public awareness material is relatively low-profile. UNDP should devote more resources to raise awareness with an improved and more informative website and more outreach material explaining the objectives and achievements of the project. The latter is being addressed since the hiring of a dedicated staff member for communication and media in January 2019.

The quality of the Annual Progress Reports is generally good and they provide concise summaries and of project achievements. However, they tend to focus more on activities than on results and a more detailed analysis of the results achieved should be provided, rather than just the quantitative results provided in the project performance tables. Short narrative comments should be included in the project performance tables that can be correlated with the corresponding Annual Work Plan (AWP). An indication of whether progress is on target to achieve expected results should also be provided. In this way, both the project team and the Project Board will be better able to monitor progress and have early warning of potential problems that might require corrective actions.

3. Progress Towards Results

The project has implemented a considerable number of activities which are contributing to the achievement of expected results. The allocation of the project budget of USD7.5 million to the three outputs as listed in the ProDoc was approximately 42%, 15% and 21% respectively. The overall budget implementation rate as of the end of 2018 was about 49% which, two years into the project, is relatively low. The individual output budget implementation rates at the end of 2018 were: Output 1, 50%; Output 2, 90%; and Output 3, 30%. However, it should be noted that the responsive and adaptive manner in which the project has been implemented combined with the change of priorities since the project was originally designed has resulted in the need to redesign and/or include other activities to achieve the project outputs.

The results achieved under Output 1 include:

- Seven Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) installed, including two in Papua New Guinea and five in Cook Islands. The latter were purchased under a separate project and installed with RESPAC support.
- Provision of spare parts for 14 AWS in Fiji to repair damage caused by TC Winston in 2016.
- National and regional climate outlook fora: national forum in Vanuatu and three regional events: Fiji, 2016; Samoa, 2017; and Fiji, 2018.

- Training:
  - Three meteorologists from Kiribati, Fiji, and Tonga trained at Bureau of Meteorology (BOM).
  - Representatives from Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu attended early warning and capacity training organised by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and World Meteorology Organization (WMO).
  - Training of Met Services technicians on Automated Weather Stations (AWS) maintenance conducted by National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) and JICA (Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu).
  - Sector climate observer refresher training conducted in Fiji by Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS). 60 observers from sugar research, agriculture and NDMO sectors attended.
- Study tour in Solomon Islands for climate scientists and health officials from Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu to study how Solomon Islands uses the MalaClim model to predict the outbreak of malaria
- RTC feasibility study completed.

The completion of the RTC feasibility study is seen as a key achievement of the project. This initiative was not included in the original ProDoc but was later adopted as a project activity to address the capacity needs of the NMHS in the region. The initiative was broadly supported by the NMHS directors interviewed by the MTR consultant and by the Project Board at its meeting in October 2018.

The results achieved under Output 2 include:

- Regional Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and Disaster Recovery Framework (DRF) training for 47 regional experts from FSM, Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.
- Regional PDNA and DRF Training of Trainers (ToT) training for 24 regional experts from FSM, Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.
- Regional review of PDNA methodology with recommendations and a way forward produced.
- National training on PDNA and DRF conducted in Cook Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.
- Country Preparedness Packages (CPP) developed for Cook Islands, Republic of Marshall Islands and Tuvalu.
- Earthquake Recovery Plan (EREP) formulated for Solomon Islands.
- Fijian and Solomon Islands experts were mobilised to Tonga to support Tropical Cyclone (TC) Gita early recover and planning. (South-South Cooperation).
- TC Gita DRF in collaboration with the World Bank.

The activities highlight the emphasis on regional coordination and South-South. It also highlights the growing interest in PDNAs and DRFs.

The main achievements of Output 3 are:

- Concept note for the Pacific Early Recovery Fund (PERF) submitted to the Project Board.
- The Pacific's first "bundled micro-insurance" product was officially launched.
- The Government of Fiji has registered more than 100,000 civil servants and social welfare recipients under the bundled micro-insurance scheme.
- Workshop in Fiji in partnership with UNDP AltFinLab to design crowd-funding platforms for PERF.

The significant achievement thus far has been the success of the bundled micro-insurance product in Fiji, which is considered as the first step into more disaster-resilient community and small and medium enterprise focused insurance products in the region. The launching of the PRCRAI parametric insurance products and the regional PERF in 2019 will see the bulk of the allocated budget for this output expended so in this sense, most of the results of this component have yet to be achieved.

4. Sustainability

The main risks to sustainability are the availability of sufficient capacity at national level in terms of maintaining pools of CLEWS technicians and meteorologists trained to basic and advanced levels, and the continuity of developing preparedness, planning and recovery processes such as the PDNA and DRF given the evolving technical nature of the subject matter. The risk to sustainability of the financial instruments to share disaster related risk and to fund post disaster recovery is mainly financial although there are also potential socio-economic risks associated with expanding the micro-insurance product to other countries such as the reluctance of the lower income demographic that the product is aimed at to buy insurance. This risk can be mitigated by conducting focused awareness raising and marketing campaigns based on the success of the Fiji experience, recognising that micro-insurance is one way to enhance community resilience.

For the CLEWS components, the NMHS are the national agencies responsible for maintenance of the AWS installations and they will require both the technical capacity to maintain the monitoring hardware and annual budget appropriations to fund the cost of routine maintenance and remedial repairs.

The development of a RTC in Fiji is one of the main targets of the project and its establishment would enhance the number of trained meteorologists in the region. Sustainability of the RTC will depend on attracting sufficient numbers of trainees and on obtaining sufficient funding, which will depend on the support of donors and subscriptions from the member countries.

To sustain the achievements of the preparedness, planning and recovery components of the project will require institutionalisation of the project outputs at the national level with the support of regional organisations such as SPC. Beyond the life cycle of the project it will be important to establish a regional pool of experts under the coordination of SPC that can continue the training effort on a South-South Cooperation basis and there are early signs that this is being established. This is imperative given the frequency and the regular occurrence of natural hazards over the years and will continue to impact livelihoods and the welfare of the populace at large in the region.

The financial and socio-economic risk to sustaining the bundled micro-insurance product concerns maintaining a critical mass of policy holders to keep the product viable. The sustainability of the parametric insurance scheme to be introduced in 2019 will depend on being able to build the significant premium pool required to attract the re-insurance companies to enter the market and support local insurance companies. The success of the bundled micro-insurance product in Fiji indicates that parametric insurance may also become a significant project output. The financial risk to the PERF concerns its replenishment ability after a disaster event. This will depend on the commitment of donors for scaling up and the viability of the crowd-funding platform as a replenishment modality.

5. Gender Equality

The project design and implementation strategy are considered to be gender sensitive but a more concerted effort is required to encourage equal representation of women and men in project activities, where practicable and contextualised. A more pro-active and participatory approach should be adopted in future, including setting gender equality targets and performance indicators, and mandatory reporting of results in the annual reports.

6. No Cost Extension

The activities that remain to be implemented under Output 1 are:

- installation of 34 new AWS in Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. The AWS installations will be cost shared with the India Funded Climate Early Warning Systems (I-CLEWS) project.
- Further critical support to relevant NMHS Staff for AWS maintenance and problem-solving training including data telemetry and storage in the CLiDE database.
- Continued outreach to other sectors to promote climate products.
- Continued support for efforts for the next steps of the process to establish the RTC for the South West Pacific with Pacific based partners such as University of the South Pacific and FMS.

For Output 2, the following activities are planned:

- Further PDNA/DRF training in at least three other countries and others on request.
- Revitalisation of the Pacific Disaster Net (PDN) and Pacific Damage and Loss Assessment (PDalo) information system.
- Upgrade of country baseline data.

For Output 3, the following activities remain to be implemented:

- The PERF and the Pacific Regional Climate Risk Adaptation and Insurance product are expected to be launched in 2019 but will require RESPAC support for at least one year to implement, test, fine tune, monitor and scale up, including during the full Pacific tropical cyclone period.

Given the previous rate of implementation for Output 1 activities and the potential difficulties of installing AWS during the tropical cyclone season, it is considered highly unlikely that 34 AWS will be installed by the end of 2019. Considering the outstanding funds available to the project and the benefits to the region and the member PICs of continuing with project implementation, the MTR consultant concludes that an extension to the project is justified and recommends a no cost extension until 31 December 2020 to achieve its expected results.

7. Appreciation of the role of the Russian Federation

All the key informants and stakeholders interviewed by the MTR consultant expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the support of the Government of the Russian Federation for the RESPAC project.

8. Recommendations

The MTR consultant considers that the RESPAC project team is best positioned to identify future activities to be supported for the remainder of the project and considers the activities proposed in the note on the implementation progress submitted to the Steering Committee meeting of the Russian Federation-UNDP Trust Fund for Development of the 16th May 2019 to be highly relevant and appropriate to achieving the project's expected results. The following recommendations relate to the revision of the RRF, the reporting of results in the annual reports, the introduction of gender equality indicators and targets, the sustainability of results beyond the project life cycle, the raising of RESPAC's public profile and finally the need for a no cost extension:

1. UNDP to include short narrative details of project results that have been achieved in the reporting cycle in the performance data section of future annual progress reports and report on the cumulative targets achieved as well as annual target achievements so that the reports can stand alone as records of achievements. An indication of whether progress is on target to achieve expected results should also be provided.
2. UNDP to use the opportunity of a no-cost extension to review the RRF and revise it to remove redundant indicators and targets, include appropriate indicators and targets for new activity results and make it fit for purpose as a management tool for achieving the expected results up to the approved end of the project cycle.
3. UNDP to prepare the Project Sustainability and Exit Strategy and submit it for discussion as an agenda item at the 2019 Project Board meeting.
4. UNDP and the Project Board to adopt a more pragmatic approach to gender equality, including setting progressive gender equality performance indicators and targets in the RRF and mandatory numeric and narrative reporting of gender equality results in the annual progress reports.
5. UNDP to continue put emphasis on raising public awareness of the project activities and outputs with an improved and more informative website and more outreach material explaining the objectives and achievements of the project.
6. The MTR consultant considers that an extension to the project is justified and recommends a no cost extension until 31 December 2020 to achieve its expected results.

1. Introduction

This report presents the results and findings of the Mid Term Review (MTR) of the project "Disaster Resilience in the Pacific SIDS (RESPAC)". The project is funded by the Government of the Russian Federation (hereinafter, the Russian Federation) within the framework of the Russian Federation – UNDP Trust Fund for Development with a grant of USD7.5 million and is being implemented by the UNDP Pacific Office under the UNDP Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) and managed by the Resilience and Sustainable Development team in Suva, Fiji. The project was approved in March 2016 with an implementation period of June 2016 – December 2019.

In accordance with UNDP evaluation guidelines[1], it is mandatory for all projects with a planned budget of more than USD 5 million to have both mid-term and final evaluations. The MTR is being conducted in the third full year of implementation, after the second annual progress report and at a stage when the Russian Federation is considering UNDP's request for a one year no cost extension to the project implementation period. The purpose of the MTR is therefore to evaluate the overall performance and viability of the project and to assess the need for a possible no-cost extension.

The intended primary audience for this report is the UNDP Pacific Office, the Russian Federation and the national, regional and international partners that are either the beneficiaries of or have contributed technical advice to the project.

The report is structured into the following sections:

Section 1 - Introduction

Section 2 - Project description and context

Section 3 – MTR scope and objectives

Section 4 – MTR approach and methodology

Section 5 - MTR findings

Section 6 - Conclusions, lessons learned and recommendations

The bulk of the information on the mid-term status of the project is presented in Section 5.

[1] UNDP Evaluation Guidelines, Independent Evaluation Office of UNDP, New York, Jan 2019

2. Project Description and Context

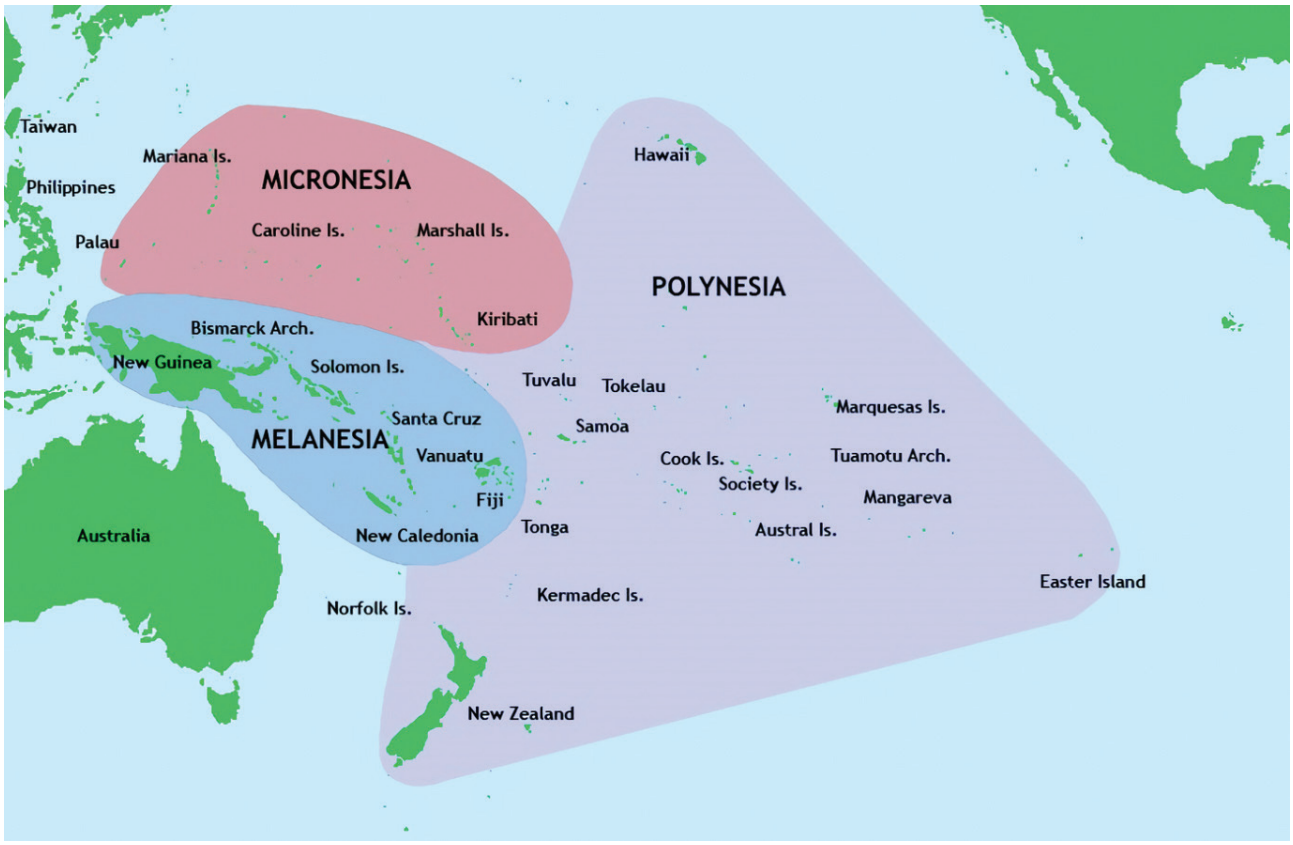
2.1 PROJECT CONTEXT

The Pacific islands region includes 22 countries and territories, with thousands of islands scattered over a large expanse of ocean (see Figure 1). It is a culturally, geographically and economically diverse region, with a population of approximately 10.5 million people divided into three major ethnic/cultural groupings: Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia. The countries are a mix of continental and volcanic islands, and low and raised coral atolls. 90% of the land mass and 85% of the region's population is found in Melanesian countries (mostly Papua New Guinea), and less than three million people reside in the remaining Pacific island countries and territories.

According to a 2012 World Bank report[2], the Pacific Islands Countries and Territories (PICTs) rank among the most vulnerable in the world to natural disasters. The majority of hazards are weather and climate related. Between 1950 and 2011, extreme weather-related events in the Pacific Islands region affected approximately 9.2 million people, approximately 10,000 reported deaths and damage costs of around US$3.2 billion[3]. Estimates show that the expected losses due to natural disasters on an annualized basis in the Pacific far exceed those in almost all other countries in the world. On average the region experiences four major weather-related disasters each year and as the PICTs grapple with the increasing impact of climate change, the risk of disaster loss and damage will increase. According to a World Bank report published in 2017, tropical cyclones are expected to increase in intensity, though not necessarily frequency, over the coming decades[4].

[2] World Bank (2012) Acting today, for tomorrow: a policy and practice note for climate and disaster resilient development in the Pacific Islands Region. World Bank, Washington, DC
[3] EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database – www.emdat.be – Université Catholique de Louvain– Brussels – Belgium
[4] Ibid

Figure 1: The geographical context



Natural hazards and climate change affect countries differently, as highlighted by the country risk profiles developed under the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI)[5]. Overall, meteorological disasters cause most economic loss, whereas geo-hazards such as earthquakes and tsunamis are the major cause of human loss. Increased exposure to meteorological and geo-hazards compounds the increasing vulnerability of PICTs to economic and social changes and the degradation of natural resources. Key drivers include population growth and migration (internal and external), poor coastal development and land use planning, unplanned urban growth, and water and ecosystem degradation including pollution of sub-surface and coastal waters.

UNDP in its Human Development report 2014[6] recognised that to foster human development it is important to reduce persistent vulnerabilities and to develop the resilience of populations to cope with the effects of adverse events. Furthermore, risk reduction should be mainstreamed into the development agenda to ensure that disasters and the adverse effects of climate change do not hinder development progress. To achieve this status will require sufficient levels of capacities and resources in-country to prevent, prepare for, manage and recover from disasters. It will also require a cross-sectoral approach to avoid uncoordinated planning and potential gaps in key areas. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 reiterated the commitment of the UN Member States to address disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience and provided a set of priority areas for action including; 1) understanding disaster risk, 2) strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, 3) investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience, and 4) enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "build back better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction[7].

[5] www. http://pcrafi.spc.int/
[6] Human Development Report 2014. Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience, UNDP, New York, 2014
[7] Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030, p.12 available at http://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf

2.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Fourteen countries and one territory are being supported by the project: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau (territory), Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu (see Figure 1).

The project was designed to support the PICs in planning and preparing for climate and disaster risk, and to assist them to develop the resilience to withstand and recover from the impact of disaster events. The project contributes to Outcome 5 of the UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-2017 and Outcome 3 of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia Pacific (RBAP) Regional Programme 2014-2017: "Countries are able to reduce the likelihood of conflict, and lower the risks of natural disasters, including from climate change". In line with this outcome, the overall project goal is to effectively address the consequences of, and responses to, climate related hazards. Progress towards this goal was aimed to be achieved through the implementation of activities designed to deliver the following three outputs (sub-activity results highlighted in italics were added in the 2017 Activity Work Plan):

OUTPUT 1:	**STRENGTHENED *GENDER SENSITIVE* EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS AND CLIMATE MONITORING CAPACITY IN PICS**
Activity Result 1.1	**Increased capacity within national and regional meteorological services to generate user-relevant information on climate risks.**
Activity Result 1.1.1	*Climate Data interface improved through thorough assessment of gaps and collaboration with external partners to meet critical needs in terms of equipment and technical capacity.*
Activity Result 1.1.2	*Improved understanding of traditional knowledge developed in collaboration with national and regional stakeholders including documenting and sharing of best practices.*
Activity Result 1.1.3	*Improved collaboration between National Weather Service and specific sectors to improve knowledge of climate impacts and development of counter strategies.*
Activity Result 1.2	**Increased capacity of selected PICs to disseminate and use tailored information on climate to relevant end-users.**
Activity Result 1.2.1	*Capacity of Media and Community members enhanced in understanding, summarizing and disseminating climate related information products.*

Through this output, the project aims to strengthen climate observation/monitoring networks, build data competencies, and strengthen the capacity of NMHS to generate climate and weather alerts in the PICs. It also aims to strengthen the engagement of NMHS with specific sectors to ensure that climate services respond to their needs.

OUTPUT 2:	PREPAREDNESS AND PLANNING MECHANISMS AND TOOLS TO MANAGE DISASTER RECOVERY PROCESSES STRENGTHENED AT REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL
Activity Result 2.1	**Strengthen capacity of selected PIC government to establish, coordinate and manage disaster preparedness and post disaster recovery.**
Activity Result 2.1.1	*Strengthen capacity of selected PIC governments to establish disaster preparedness and post disaster recovery.*
Activity Result 2.1.2	*Strengthen capacity of selected PIC governments to coordinate and manage disaster preparedness and post disaster recovery.*
Activity Result 2.2	**Enhanced capacity of the Pacific Humanitarian Team to provide recovery support to countries following disaster events.**
Activity Result 2.2.1	*Enhanced capacity of UN Country Team to support recovery across relevant sectors.*
Activity Result 2.2.2	*Improved Coordination with regional actors and donors to support implementation of recovery frameworks.*

The purpose of this output is to strengthen PIC capabilities to manage disaster recovery processes at the national and local level including strengthening, planning and coordination of recovery operations; building the capacity to conduct post disaster impact assessments; and strengthening the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) regional post disaster support teams and their capacity to respond to PIC requests for assistance following disaster events.

OUTPUT 3:	INCREASED USE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS TO MANAGE AND SHARE DISASTER RELATED RISK AND FUND POST DISASTER RECOVERY EFFORTS
Activity Result 3.1	**Increased uptake of insurance by individuals, communities, enterprises and government agencies.**
Activity Result 3.1.1	*Innovative cost-effective insurance products specifically in response to weather events identified through feasibility assessments and consideration of views of clients and insurance brokers.*
Activity Result 3.2	**Increased use of financial instruments to fund post disaster recovery efforts.**
Activity Result 3.2.1	*Enhanced understanding of the opportunities and impediments to disaster related financing and introduction of new policies to assist Governments with post disaster funding.*

Through this output, the project facilitates the uptake and use of financial instruments to better manage disaster risk and reduce the potential economic and social impact of weather-related disasters. It identifies, establishes or facilitates access to funding facilities for post-disaster recovery, post-disaster reserve funds and a UNDP managed post-disaster recovery community support fund.

2.2.1 Changes to Project Results and Resources Framework (RRF)

The project RRF was reviewed during the inception phase in late 2016 and a revised RRF was submitted in the Annual Workplan (AWP) for 2017. The outcomes, outputs and primary activity results areas remained the same but new sub-activity results areas were introduced, as listed in the output boxes above. The purpose of introducing the sub-activity results was to streamline the number of indicative activities listed in the ProDoc RRF and provide focus on the main results that would contribute to the achievement of the project outputs. At the same time, additional output indicators and targets were introduced although it was not clear whether these were intended to replace the original ProDoc indicators and targets or supplement them. According to UNDP's Programme and Project Management manage change policy[8] the changes in the RRF were not considered substantive enough to require the Board's formal approval. However, it would have been good practice to keep the Board fully informed of the RRF changes and to have it recorded in the Board meeting minutes. The impact of these changes on the MTR is that there is a lack of clarity on the RRF to be used in the assessment of progress towards results and therefore the approach taken has been to take all targets into consideration in assessing performance. This issue is discussed further in Section 5.1.2.

2.2.2 Implementation Strategy

At project design stage, the implementation strategy was to support all countries for some activities, e.g. PHT post-disaster support and knowledge products. Other activities such as investments in upgrading weather stations and data communication facilities (Output 1) anticipated targeting a limited number of PICs according to exposure and incidence of disasters, and where the project would add maximum value. The 2017 Annual Work Plan identified three countries for this targeted support under Output 1 - Kiribati, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands - based on a detailed analysis of hazard and vulnerability criteria. However, following discussion at the second Project Board Meeting in March 2017, UNDP reviewed this strategy in the light of available project funding and decided to extend support to a further six countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, Vanuatu, Niue and Tuvalu. These additional countries were selected on the basis of an analysis of needs and gaps, taking into consideration the many other regional interventions to ensure that there is no duplication of support.

As noted previously, the RESPAC project is operating in a culturally, geographically and economically diverse region, which poses challenges for implementation and requires close coordination between the project team and the national and regional stakeholders. The project team has made persistent effort to engage with other regional donors and implementing partners to achieve complementarity between interventions, always focusing on developing the in-country capacity of the recipient countries, and converging inclusively to build on existing regional partnerships, sharing of best practises and taking collective ownership of the project outcomes.

[8] UNDP Programme and Project Management Manage Change Policy, paras 19-20

2.2.3 Key Partners

Partnership with regional and national agencies has been a cornerstone in the co-ordination, management and implementation of the project. At the national level, the National Meteorological and Hydrological Service (NMHS) and National Disaster Management Offices (NDMO) have been important partners in the implementation of relevant activities in their countries. As members of the Project Board, the beneficiary countries also have roles in providing strategic guidance for the project to ensure that it achieves its stated outputs and outcomes. This open and inclusive approach has been important in ensuring the relevance of the intervention to national needs and the collective ownership of results.

Partnership with regional agencies has been extremely important to avoid duplication of effort and to optimise the overall impact of the project in a region where there are many other actors and interventions addressing similar national needs. Key amongst these has been the partnership with the SPREP and the Pacific Community (SPC) both of which have active and complementary programmes in the region. Partnership with the USP is also being developed in the context of the proposed RTC (see Section 5.3.1). The internal UNDP partnership forged between the RESPAC project and the PFIP is a good example of two projects with complementary objectives collaborating to deliver cost-efficient outputs without duplication of effort.

At the international level, RESPAC has established partnerships with the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) of New Zealand, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) (for Output 1 CLEWS activities), the World Bank and European Union (for Output 2 regional PDNA training) and Munich Climate Insurance Initiative (for Output 3 insurance products).

Table 1: The principle partners in the project, as listed in the 2017 Annual Progress Report.

	Output 1	Output 2	Output 3
National Agencies/ Institutions	• Cook Islands Meteorological Services • Fiji Meteorological Services • National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) affiliates in: - Micronesia - Marshall Islands, and - Palau. • Kiribati Meteorological Office • Niue Meteorology Division • Papua New Guinea National Weather Service • Samoa Meteorology Division • Solomon Islands Meteorological Services • Tuvalu Meteorological Office • Tonga Meteorological Office • Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department, Ministry of Climate Change • And the four other Met Offices to a lesser extent	• Marshall Islands Disaster Management Office • Emergency Management Cook Islands • Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office • Solomon Islands National Disaster Management Office • Tuvalu Disaster Management Office • And all 10 other Disaster Management Offices to a lesser extent	• Samoa Chamber of Commerce • Tuvalu Finance and Economic Development and Department of Environment Through RESPAC/PFIP partnership, following agencies are now recipients of RESPAC funding: • Fiji Dairy Farmers Association • Fiji Sugar Cane Growers Association Sugar Cane Growers Council, Fiji Rice, Copra Farmers, Fiji and other Central Banks
Regional Agencies/ Institutions	• Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) • University of the South Pacific (USP) • Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)	• Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) • Global Giving, World Bank	
External/ Donor Country Agencies	• National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Sciences (NIWA) • Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) • Bureau of Meteorology, Australia	• European Union • World Bank	• Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Munich Climate Insurance Initiative
UNDP Projects & UN Agencies	• World Meteorology Organization (WMO)	United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (UNOCHA)	UNDP Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP)

2.2.4 Alignment with National Development Plans, Regional Policies and Development Frameworks

In addition to alignment with the UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-2017 and the UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia Pacific (RBAP) Regional Programme 2014-2017, the project aligns with, addresses or complements the following national development plans, UN Pacific Strategy (UNPS) outcomes, regional policies, strategies, development frameworks and programmes:

1. National development plans of Cook Islands[9], Federated States of Micronesia[10], Fiji[11], Kiribati[12], Nauru[13], Niue[14], Palau[15], Papua New Guinea[16], Republic of Marshall Islands[17], Samoa[18], Solomon Islands[19], Tokelau[20], Tonga[21], Tuvalu[22] and Vanuatu[23].
2. UN Pacific Strategy 2018 – 2022:
   - Outcome 1: Climate Change, Disaster Resilience, and Environmental Protection
   - By 2022, people and ecosystems in the Pacific are more resilient to the impacts of climate change, climate variability and disasters; and environmental protection is strengthened.
3. Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific 2017-2030.
4. Goal 1: Strengthened integrated adaptation and risk reduction to enhance resilience to climate change and disasters.
5. Goal 3: Strengthened disaster preparedness, response and recovery.
6. Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy 2012-2021
   - Pacific Key Outcome (PKO) 4: Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) for tropical cyclones, storm surges, waves and tsunami in the PICTs' region are implemented and improved.
7. Pacific Resilience Programme (PREP) Regional Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). Pacific Community (SPC) Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (SOPAC) and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.
8. SPREP Strategic Plan 2017 -2026.
9. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

The project is also closely aligned with the UNDP global 5-10-50 programme and contributes to most of the five thematic areas, in particular risk assessment and communication; early warning and preparedness; and resilient recovery.

[9] Te Kaveinga Nui – National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2020, "To enjoy the highest quality of life consistent with the aspirations of our people and in harmony with our culture and environment"
[10] Federated Sates of Micronesia Strategic Development Plan 2004-2023
[11] Fiji 5 year and 20 year National Development Plan
[12] Kiribati National Development Plan 2016-2019, "Towards a better educated, healthier, more prosperous nation with a higher quality of life"
[13] Nauru National Sustainable Development Strategy 2005-2025 "Partnership for Quality of Life"
[14] Niue National Strategic Plan 2016-2026
[15] Palau 2020 National Master Development Plan
[16] Papua New Guinea Development Strategic Plan 2010-2030
[17] Republic of Marshall Islands National Strategic Plan 2015-2017
[18] Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2016/17 – 2019/20
[19] Solomon Islands National Development Strategy 2016-2035
[20] Tokelau National Strategic Plan July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2020
[21] Tonga Strategic Development Framework 2015-2025 (TSDF II) "A More Progressive Tonga: Enhancing Our Inheritance"
[22] Te Kakeega III National Strategy for Sustainable Development "The TKIII vision foresees a more protected, secure and prosperous Tuvalu; healthier people who are more engaged in national, regional and international forums; and a government fully committed to honouring Tuvalu's commitments and respecting its partnerships."
[23] Vanuatu 2030: "The People's Plan"

2.2.5 Gender Equality

The ProDoc recognises that gender inclusion and analysis are critical components in ensuring that policy and programming uphold gender equality. The project therefore included gender mainstreaming in accordance with UNDP political and strategic documents and specifically the UNDP guide on *Integrating gender in disaster risk reduction in Small Islands Developing States (2013)*. To this end, the project introduced gender indicators to monitor and evaluate gender mainstreaming in the revised 2017 RRF and, where relevant, collected disaggregated data by gender. The results of the gender equality analysis are discussed in Section 5.5.

3. MTR Scope and Objectives

3.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE MTR

The primary objectives of the MTR are to evaluate the overall performance and viability of the project and to assess to what extent it has contributed to its primary goal as described in the original ProDoc. It also assesses how relevant it has been to the needs of its core stakeholders. The MTR addresses three key questions:

1. Has the project thus far been able to deliver on its key objectives and goals as defined in the ProDoc?

2. Is the project relevant to its stakeholders and beneficiaries and is there acknowledgement and appreciation of the work carried out by the project?

3. What, if any, changes are required to the project design and scope so that it may strategically develop and deliver more sustainable results for its core stakeholders?

These questions map on to the key evaluation criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability and the MTR has addressed these through a desk review of project documents, semi-structured interviews with the project team, partners, and regional and national stakeholders in the participating countries.

3.2 SCOPE OF THE MTR

The MTR has reviewed the implementation and status of the project from its inception in June 2016 through to December 2018, which is the period for which progress reports are available. Additional information for the first quarter of 2019 has been taken into consideration where available, but this has been based on discussions with the project team and other interviewees and is not backed up by documentation.

In accordance with the Terms of Refence (Annex 1), the MTR considered the following issues:

1. Identify potential project design problems, including the planned strategy;
2. Assess progress towards the achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the Project Document;
3. Identify early signs of project success or failure;
4. Review the project's strategy and recommend changes if/as required;
5. Assess continued relevance of the expected results;
6. Compare the current management arrangements with arrangements laid out in the Project Document and recommend changes to current arrangements if/as required;
7. Make recommendations regarding specific actions that might be taken to improve the project, including new or revised activities and outputs, taking the time limitation of the project into account;
8. Assess the quality of UNDP support to the project;
9. Identify and document lessons learned;
10. Review sustainability risks; and
11. Assess the need for a possible (no-cost) extension.

The MTR has assessed progress made towards the achievement of results and the risks to their sustainability (see Section 5.4). Recommendations are made for corrective actions to improve the achievement of results within the project timeframe and the need for a possible no-cost extension has also been assessed (see Section 5.5).

4. MTR Approach and Methods

Given the short timeframe available to conduct the MTR, the MTR methodology has been entirely qualitative and restricted to key informant interviews and review of available project documents. An evaluation matrix agreed during the inception phase was used as a general guide for the MTR to follow (see Annex 2). The matrix linked the core evaluation criteria to the key questions listed in Section 3.1:

1. **Progress towards results:** Has the project thus far been able to deliver on its key objectives and goals as defined in the ProDoc?

2. **Project Strategy:** Is the project relevant to its stakeholders and beneficiaries and is there acknowledgement and appreciation of the work carried out by the project?

3. **Project Implementation and Adaptive Management:** What, if any, changes are required to the project design and scope so that it may strategically develop and deliver more sustainable results for its core stakeholders?

4. **Sustainability:** Are there financials, institutional, socio-economic and/or environmental risks to sustaining long-term project results?

The following sources of primary data and information were collected:

1. Desk-top review of key project documents.

2. Face-to-face consultations with UNDP and other stakeholders as available in Fiji using semi-structured interviews with a set of key questions.

3. Skype/telephone consultations with other key stakeholders as available during the MTR mission using the same set of questions.

4.1 MTR MISSION AND DATA COLLECTION

The MTR consultant collected evidence through a combination of primary and secondary data sources.

Desktop review & documents

A detailed analysis of key project documents was used as a primary analysis tool. The analysis examined documents formulated during the preparation and implementation phases of the project (i.e. the ProDoc, Annual Workplans, mid-year and Annual Progress Report, minutes of Project Board meetings) as well as relevant documents produced within the project. A complete list of all documents reviewed is provided in Annex 4.

Key stakeholder interviews

During the MTR mission, the MTR consultant undertook a series of interviews with different stakeholders. The interviews were arranged by UNDP and were carried out either in person or remotely via Skype or telephone during the MTR mission. The stakeholders interviewed included representatives from participating government departments, project staff, local actors and other stakeholders involved with the project.

The MTR consultant conducted interviews and held meetings with the Directors of NMHS and NDMOs/ NEMOs of five countries, two partner agencies, the University of the South Pacific, Fiji Care Ltd and members of the UNDP project team. A list of interviewees is provided in Annex 3. The interviews were semi-structured, being guided by a series of open questions. Emphasis was placed on the main thematic areas, including project strategy, progress towards results, project implementation and adaptive management and project sustainability.

Site Visits and Stakeholder Consultation

During the MTR mission the MTR consultant undertook site visits in Fiji, providing the opportunity to meet with and interview national and local stakeholders as well as to visit and observe site-specific project activities.

4.1.1 MTR Mission

The MTR mission took place between 28 April and 4 May 2019 when the consultant visited Fiji and was hosted by the UNDP Pacific Office in Suva. An inception meeting was held on 29 April at the UNDP office to introduce the consultant to the RESPAC project team. The meeting provided the consultant with an overview of the RESPAC project implementation and a summary of the progress to date. The consultant provided UNDP with an overview of the technical approach of the consultancy and the preliminary project work plan.

UNDP arranged a series of interviews which took place either face to face at the office or via Skype or telephone. In the opinion of the consultant the face to face interviews were more successful than the Skype/telephone calls due to the occasionally poor quality of the connection. However, it is recognised that this was a more cost-effective option than travelling to each of the countries, although for the terminal evaluation it is recommended that the countries that have benefitted most from the project should be visited by the evaluator.

UNDP arranged for site visits to project sites on Vanua Levu island and the offices of the Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS) in Nadi. Table 2 below lists the sites visited and the related project activities.

Table 2: Project sites visited by the MTR consultant, 1 - 3 May 2019

Date	Site Name	Project Activity
1 May	Labasa Meteorological Office	• AWS site • Focus Group Discussion with FMS staff and voluntary weather observer from Seaqaqa agricultural research station
2 May	Nabouwalu	• Manual observation site and meeting with Q1 meteorological technician Ms Tokasa Lomani Saga
2 May	Fiji Rice Ltd, Dreketi	• Attended meeting of Fiji Rice Ltd members and presentation by Fiji Care Ltd on micro-insurance products.
2 May	Seaqaqa Agricultural Research Station	• AWS site with some manual instruments • Meeting with Mr Usenio Akuila, voluntary weather observer responsible for manual observations • Tour of pineapple research section.
3 May	Fiji Meteorological Services HQ, Nadi	• Meeting with FMS director and officers and tour of facilities. • Presentations from: - Mr Misaeli Funaki, Director - Mr Stephen Meke, Officer in Charge, Forecasting Centre - Mr Adarsh Kumar, Principal Officer, IT Division - Mr Harish Pratap, Principal Officer, Reporting & Facilities &Technical Services - Mr Atish Kumar, Climate Services

4.1.2 Limitations of the MTR

The main limitation of the MTR has been the limited time allocation for the review compared to similar projects of this value, scope and duration. With a total allocation of 15 days of which seven were spent on the MTR mission to Fiji, only eight days were available to prepare the inception, draft and final reports. This has limited the depth and breadth of the review and has resulted in a report that is mainly focused on the key evaluation questions.

A specific consequence of this time limitation is that the consultant was not able to interview many stakeholders while on mission in Fiji. However, this was mitigated by the availability of several key stakeholders from RESPAC countries who were attending other meetings in Suva at the time of the MTR mission. A further constraint was that the consultant was not able to visit any of the participating countries apart from Fiji, whereas it would have been beneficial to visit agencies in at least three other countries to assess project progress, relevance and appreciation “on the ground”.

As a result of these limitations, the MTR is based primarily on evidence in written reports associated with the project, clarified and validated through discussions with the project team, supplemented by discussions with key informants. The consultant is confident that the MTR report fairly and accurately represents the information available at the time of the MTR.

5. MTR Findings

5.1 PROJECT STRATEGY

Key question: "Is the project relevant to its stakeholders and beneficiaries and is there acknowledgement and appreciation of the work carried out by the project"

Key question: "What, if any, changes are required to the project design and scope so that it can strategically develop and deliver more sustainable results to its core stakeholders"

5.1.1 Project Design

The original ProDoc was well researched and the intervention logic and implementation strategy were based on consultations with National Meteorological Services and Ministries, the institutional context and the problems to be addressed by the project and is considered to be highly relevant to regional and national beneficiaries and other stakeholders. It also identified the important regional partners to engage with as well as the UN agencies active in the region. The ProDoc refers to consultations with the project stakeholders and notes that the proposed technical assistance activities were based on "comprehensive consultations with the countries and regional agencies as to the present status of climate and disaster risk management related capacities across the PICs". There is no detailed needs assessment in the ProDoc, which is perhaps understandable because of the varied needs across the geographically, culturally, and economically diverse region that the RESPAC project was designed to cover.

Good descriptions of the purpose of each output (or more accurately each "outcome" in RBM terminology) were provided with activity result areas designed to achieve the outputs also well described. Where the ProDoc falls short is in the comprehensive lists of indicative activities it provides for each activity result area. For example, over 40 indicative activities are listed for Output 1 alone. This "shopping list" approach is not necessary at the ProDoc stage and a much shorter list of indicative activities should have been provided. It is not surprising that the list of activities was reduced down to a limited number of sub-activity results areas during the inception phase, as presented in the Annual Work Plan for 2017.

The ProDoc approved in April 2016 therefore provided the background and framework within which the project could be implemented and the workplan was further refined during the inception phase to match the identified needs and gaps of the participating countries.

All of the key informants interviewed commented that the project remains highly relevant to them and that the workplans are designed to cater for the countries needs. Some noted that while there are other related projects in the region, the RESPAC project is supporting countries that are not receiving support from other donors and also seeks to fill gaps and avoid duplication with other projects. This approach was very highly appreciated by all interviewees.

5.1.2 Results Framework

The RRF provided in the ProDoc suffered from the same problem as the listing of indicative activities in the narrative description of the project outputs, i.e. an over-elaboration of the indicative activities to be conducted. In the case of the RRF this then fed through to a long list of indicators and annual targets for each output, which encourages the "micro-management" of project activities rather than a focus on achieving results. It would have been more manageable to list two or three indicators and targets for each output or to adopt a more strictly RBM approach and recast the outputs as outcomes (changes in development conditions) and the activity results as outputs (short term development results), each with its own set of two or three indicators and associated targets.

As noted in Section 2.2.1, the RRF was revised and simplified during the inception phase and new sub-activity results areas were introduced. The purpose of introducing the sub-activity results was to streamline the number of activities. Additional output indicators and targets were also introduced although it is not clear whether these were intended to replace the original indicators and targets or to supplement them. To compound the problem, the newly introduced indicators are at output level and do not all relate directly to the new sub-activity results, and the targets vary from year to year with no clear statement of what is to be achieved by the end of the project. For example, new sub-activity result 1.1.2 relates to improved understanding of traditional knowledge yet there is no associated indicator or target. Furthermore, as noted in Section 2.2.1, the revised RRFs were not reviewed by the Project Board. Faced with this dilemma, the evaluator has taken the approach that the original and newly introduced indicators and targets are all valid and has based the review of progress towards results on a combined table of results, as presented in Annex 5 and discussed in Section 5.3.

Having reviewed the mid-year and annual progress reports, the correlation between the RRF reports and the narrative sections is not always clear, with a strong emphasis on reporting on activities in the latter and numeric targets in the former. **It is highly recommended that the project performance data section of the progress reports should also include short narrative details of the results that have been achieved in the reporting cycle so that it can stand alone as a record of achievements.**

Given the lack of clarity in the RRF and the mismatch between some of the activity results and their respective indicators and targets, **it is recommended that UNDP use the opportunity of a no-cost extension (if granted) to thoroughly review the RRF and revise it to make it fit for purpose as a management tool for achieving the expected results up to the end of the project.**

5.2 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Key question: "What, if any, changes are required to the project design and scope so that it can strategically develop and deliver more sustainable results to its core stakeholders"

5.2.1 Management Arrangements

The project management structure comprises the Project Board and a Project Management Unit with a Project Manager supported by a team of specialists and other support staff. The project is also supported by an external technical advisory group and Project Assurance is provided internally by UNDP. Figure 2 shows the project management structure.

The Project Board members are the Executive Project Director from the UNDP Pacific Office; the Development Partner, the Russian Federation; and representatives from the 14 beneficiary countries and one beneficiary territory. The Board has met on four occasions since the project inception: in October 2016, March 2017, November 2017 and October 2018. The cycle of meetings close to the end of a calendar year is considered appropriate as it provides the board with the opportunity to review and approve the APR for the current year and the AWP for the following year. In particular it is imperative that implementation is not delayed pending approval of the AWP.

The MTR consultant can report that the support of the Russian Federation for the project and its strategic guidance role on the Project Board has been warmly appreciated by the all the key informants interviewed.

The project inception phase was managed by a project initiation consultant who was responsible for liaising with UNDP Trust Fund for Development and Regional Bureau of European Countries (RBEC) to finalise the funding agreement; organise meetings with Regional and Country stakeholders; finalise job descriptions for the RESPAC project positions; and organise the inaugural Project Board meeting. The Project Manager assumed his role in January 2017 and the rest of the project team were recruited over the following months.

The structure of the project management team has changed during the implementation phase with the addition of an Associate Project Manager, CLEWS in October 2017, the creation of an Associate Manager for Output 2 in December 2018 and the hiring of a Communications Associate in January 2019.

The project management structure is considered inclusive and is operating effectively to provide strategic guidance for the project.

The support provided by UNDP is rated very highly by all interviewees and there was high praise for the project team. Many interviewees commented on the responsiveness of the project team to the needs of countries, for example in providing support to Tonga after Tropical Cyclone Gita in February 2018, providing support to Vanuatu after the Ambae volcanic eruption in July 2018, and the provision of spare parts to FMS to repair 14 AWS damaged by Tropical Cyclone Winston in February 2016. The interviewees also appreciated UNDP's flexibility to adapt the project workplan to changing circumstances and requirements, for example in supporting the feasibility study for a RTC.

RESPAC also acts as an umbrella project for two other related projects funded by other donors. These are the "Climate Early Warning Systems in Pacific Island Countries (CLEWSPIC)" project funded by the Government of India and the "Strengthening Schools Preparedness for Tsunamis in the Asia Pacific" project funded by the Government of Japan. In this sense, RESPAC is adopting a programmatic approach and is able to leverage funds from other donors for projects closely related to its core objectives. This has implications for sustainability of outcomes after the end of the project and this issue is discussed further in Section 5.4.

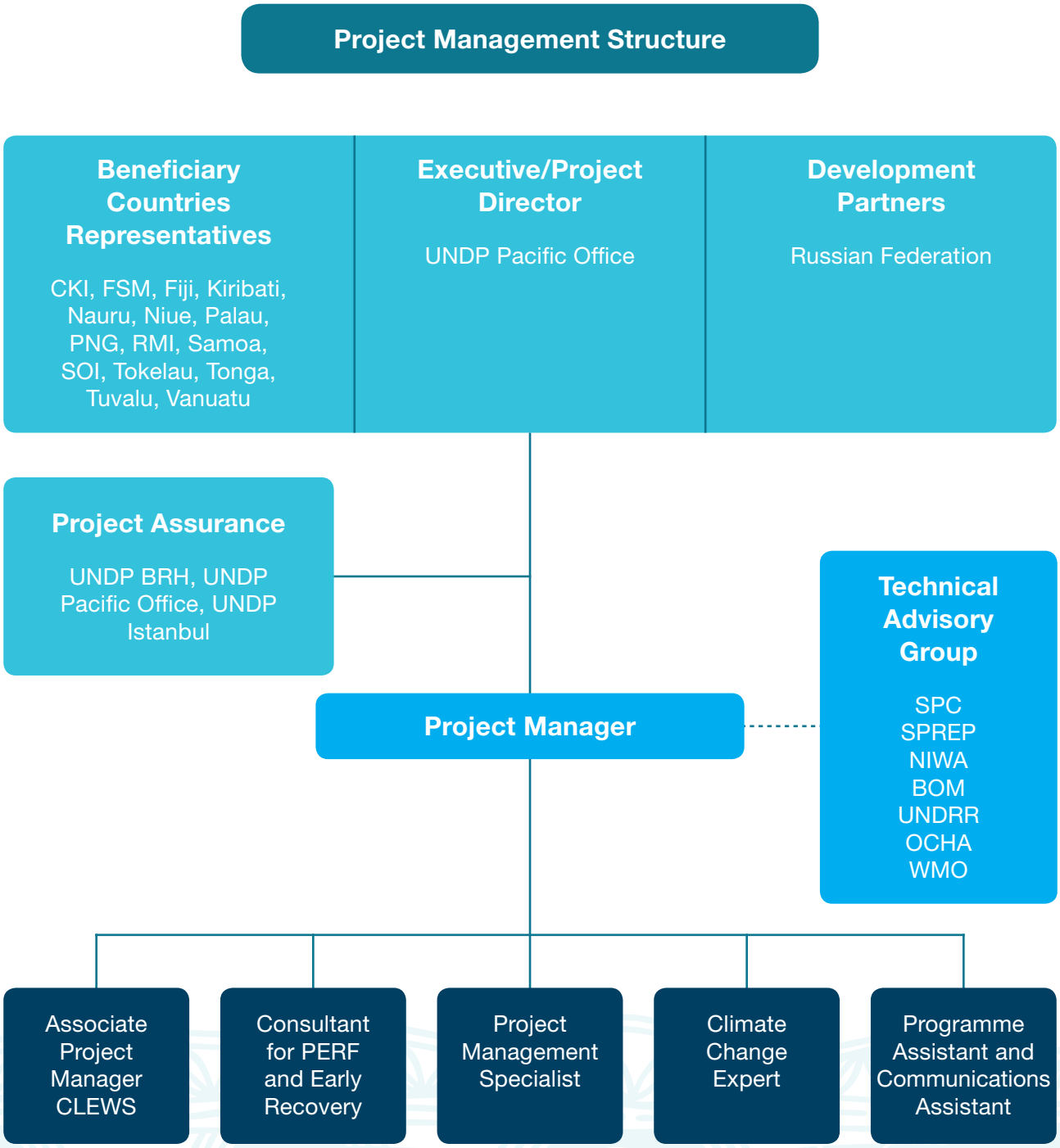
5.2.2 Work Planning

There were delays at the start of the project while the key members of the project team were recruited. A project initiation consultant was hired from June 2016 to April 2017 and one of his tasks was to conduct preliminary assessments of the needs and requirements of the participating countries. The consultant also prepared a draft of the 2017 AWP. The draft AWP was endorsed by the Project Board at its 2nd meeting on 15 March 2017 but the final version was not approved until May after receiving comments from the member countries. The Project Manager was on board by January 2017 and other members of the project team were in place in the following months. However, the Associate Project Manager for CLEWS (Output 1) was not recruited until late October 2017, which resulted in a delay to implementation of Output 1 activities.

Project implementation therefore had a slow start and effectively commenced in May 2017. Implementation of many Output 1 activities were significantly delayed until October 2017, although work continued on the compilation of NMHS profiles to identify gaps and target interventions. The third Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF-3) was also conducted in Apia, Samoa in September 2017 in collaboration with SPREP. Further delays were caused in 2018 when events such as Tropical Cyclone Gita and the Ambae volcanic eruption in Vanuatu affected the programme.

The 2017, 2018 and 2019 AWPs provide details of the activities planned to be implemented in the respective years, but these do not always relate to the listed targets, which are taken from the original RRF. The RRF itself has changed several times since the inception (see Section 5.1.2) but the indicators have been constant since 2017, with only the targets changing on an annual basis. Given the disconnect between the activities and targets in the AWP and the targets listed in the RRF, it is not clear how the RRF is being used as a management tool to monitor progress. As mentioned in Section 5.1.2, **it is recommended that the RRF should be revised and updated to reflect the results expected to be achieved up to the end of the project.**

Figure 2: Project management structure at time of MTR



5.2.3 Project Level Monitoring and Evaluation Systems

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework in the ProDoc provides details of an M&E plan that includes: within the annual cycle reporting; annual reporting; and end of project reporting requirements. The detailed plan should follow the procedures established in the UNDP Programme and Operation Policies and Procedures (POPP). The MTR makes the following observations:

- **Within the annual cycle:**
  - On a quarterly basis, a quality assessment shall record progress towards the completion of key results. The MTR consultant has been informed that QPRs are not mandatory at UNDP but the summary of output results has been updated quarterly on the Corporate Planning System (ATLAS).
  - Based on the initial risk analysis submitted, a risk log will be activated on Atlas and regularly updated. The MTR consultant has been informed that the risk log is continually updated on ATLAS and forms part of the Annual Reporting process.
  - A project lessons learned log should be activated and regularly updated to ensure ongoing learning and adaptation within the organisation. The MTR consultant has been informed that lessons learnt are diligently highlighted in the annual report but have not yet been analysed. The Project Manager has undertaken to list all lessons learned, into a proper log.
- **Annually:**
  - Annual Project Review (APR) reports are submitted to the Project Board formatted on the template provided for the Russian Federation – UNDP Trust Fund for Development. The MTR consultant was provided with copies of the APR reports for 2016, 2017 and 2018.
  - In addition to the APRs, short mid year progress reports were prepared and submitted to the donor but not shared with the Project Board.
- **End of project cycle**
  - An independent final external evaluation should be conducted upon completion of the project activities. The MTR consultant notes that no provision was made in the M&E plan for the MTR and recommends that such provision should be made in future for high value, multi-year, regional projects.

Although the MTR consultant was not able to view information on the Atlas system, the information provided to him indicates that **monitoring and evaluation is being conducted satisfactorily and there are sufficient resources allocated at UNDP Pacific Office for this purpose.**

5.2.4 Stakeholder Engagement

A distinctive feature of the RESPAC project is the successful engagement with national and regional stakeholders. Strong relationships and partnerships have been developed and nurtured by the project team. The project has been able to support a number of activities in collaboration with regional partners such as support for the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) Pacific Islands Education, Training Research Panel (PIETR) to conduct the RTC feasibility study; support for PICOF-3 and PICOF-4 in partnership with SPREP; support for regional PDNA and DRF training in collaboration with SPC, the EU and World Bank.

All the interviewees expressed strong support for the project and it is clear that national government agencies are still engaged and supportive of the objectives of the project. Project Board meetings are attended by representatives of many if not most of the beneficiary countries and they play an important role in providing strategic advice on important decisions, for example increasing the number of target countries for Output 1 activities from three to nine and requesting the feasibility study for the RTC.

The active involvement of government agencies has been a major contribution in making progress towards achieving the project's objectives and all key informant interviewees appreciated the collaborative approach of the RESPAC project compared to the top-down approach of many international interventions.

5.2.5 Reporting

The project progress reports made available to the MTR consultant have been the annual reports for 2016, 2017 and 2018, and the mid-year reports for 2017 and 2018. The annual reports are submitted to the Project Board for endorsement whereas the shorter mid-year reports are shared with the donor only. The annual reports are formatted in a template provided by the Russian Federation-UNDP Trust Fund for Development. Their quality is generally good and they provide concise summaries and interesting information about project achievements. However, they tend to focus more on activities than on results and a more detailed analysis of the results achieved in the subject year should be provided, rather than just the quantitative results provided in the project performance tables. In this respect, **short narrative comments should be included in the project performance tables that can be correlated with the corresponding AWP. An indication of whether progress is on target to achieve expected results should also be provided.** In this way, both the project team and the Project Board will be better able to monitor progress and have early warning of potential problems that might require corrective actions.

5.2.6 Communications

Communication between UNDP and the regional and national stakeholders has been excellent and the project team have received accolades from the key informant interviewees for its "hands-on" approach and for keeping the stakeholder well-informed. In the geographically fragmented and culturally diverse region encompassed by RESPAC, good communications are key to successful implementation and there are clearly good working relationships between UNDP and the countries vis-a-vis the countries themselves.

In terms of external outreach and public awareness, RESPAC has made the news on many occasions as evidenced by the many links to newspaper stories in the Annual Reports. A brochure has also been prepared and a project webpage has been developed on the UNDP Pacific Office website. However, the public awareness material is relatively low profile and **it is recommended that UNDP devote more resources to raise awareness with an improved and more informative website and more outreach material explaining the objectives and achievements of the project.** A communications specialist was recruited in January 2019 and it is expected that the public profile of RESPAC will be raised in 2019.

5.3 PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

Key question: "Has the project thus far been able to deliver on its key objectives and goals as defined in the ProDoc?"

The project has implemented a considerable number of activities which are contributing towards the achievement of the expected results. Output 1 has the largest budget allocation (USD3,166,765) and at the end of 2018 had an implementation rate of approximately 50%. Output 3 has the next highest budget (USD1,556,765) and an implementation rate of 30% at the end of 2018. The budget for Output 2 is USD1,146,765 and at the end of 2018 had an implementation rate of 90%. The budget allocated to the Project Management Unit (PMU) is USD1,629,705 and nearly 34% had been utilised at the end of 2018. Overall, the project had utilised 23.5% of its budget at the end of 2017 and 48.7% by the end of 2018. Thus, 51.3% or USD3,847,500 is available until the end of the project. This implies that the annual implementation rate will need to double in 2019 to utilise the available funds, which seems improbable considering the complexity of the areas where these funds will be utilised, i.e. the installation of AWS in eight countries. This is discussed in more detail in the justification for a no cost extension in Section 5.5.

The MTR consultant has undertaken an assessment of the RRF indicators against progress towards project-targets at Output level (Annex 5). The assessment was based on reported progress available at the time of the MTR, i.e. up to the end of 2018, with further input from the project team up to March 2019. As previously noted, due to the manner in which the RRF was constructed, the correlation between output indicators and targets is unclear in many cases. The assessment is therefore more focused on recording progress towards achievement of the RRF targets and does not attempt to correlate this to the output indicators.

Table 3 below presents a summary of the results matrix together with an assessment of the likelihood that the targets will be achieved by the scheduled end of project in December 2019 and with a no-cost extension to December 2020.

Table 3: Summary of project achievements, likelihood of achieving targets and outstanding issues

Likelihood of achieving project results targets assessment key

Achieved at mid-term	On target to be achieved	Not on target to be achieved

Progress Towards Results	By December 2019 (with no extension)	With No Cost Extension to December 2020	Summary of Achievements	Outstanding Issues
Output 1			• 2xWorkshops on Climate observation and reporting conducted in Fiji in 2018 • 1 data sharing agreement signed between Vanuatu Ministry of Health and Meteorology Department • 1 sector working group established in Vanuatu between Ministry of Health and Meteorology Department. Working groups established in Fiji and Samoa in 2018 • Vanuatu national climate outlook forum conducted • CLEWS training for Regional Media Organizations, August 2017, Solomon Islands in collaboration with SPREP • Climate and health study tour for the Malaria based Risk Index (Malaclim) in Solomon Islands, April 2017 • Representatives from Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu attended early warning and capacity training organised by JICA and WMO • 3 representatives from Kiribati, Fiji, and Tonga attended 9-month graduate diploma training in meteorology at BOM in Australia • Vanuatu was supported with the digitisation of historical data from observing networks to CLiDE database. Cook Islands, Fiji and PNG were also supported	• Installation of 34 Automated Weather stations (AWS) in Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu • Further support with AWS maintenance training after installation and also in terms of end to end connectivity. RESPAC support will be critical as NMHS need to improve their outputs and services to make use of their newly acquired data.

	• Fiji Met Service conducted 2 workshops with stakeholders from different sectors with the aim of having a shared understanding of climate science and to improve the quality of climate reporting • PICOF-3 (Samoa, October 2017) and PICOF-4 (Fiji, October 2018) regional outlook forums supported • 5 AWS installed in Cook Islands. 2 AWS installed in PNG. Spares for 14 AWS provided to Fiji after damage caused by TC Winston in early 2018. • Training of 15 Fiji Met Services technicians conducted by NIWA	• Outreach to other sectors with climate products focused on their needs and requirements due to availability of better-quality data from installed AWS. • Next steps to launch the Regional Training Centre (RTC).
Output 2	• Regional PDNA review conducted in 2017. • Regional review of PDNA methodology conducted in 2018 • Regional PHT PDNA and DRF training in October 2017 • Training on recovery processes in Federated States of Micronesia and Palau in 2018 • Meeting to establish recovery policy, structure and processes held in FSM and brought together representatives of the community and government from all 4 states • Capacity of 1 regional expert in early recovery and PDNA from Fiji has improved capacity after participating in South-South Cooperation between Fiji and Solomon Islands. The outcome of this SSC was the Solomon Islands Earthquake Recovery Plan • Regional PDNA and DRF training and ToT for PHT and government officials completed in Fiji, April 2018 (Tonga, Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji). • National training on PDNA/DRF Tonga and Cook Islands (2017) and Vanuatu (2018) • Country Preparedness Package (CPP) for Cook Islands and RMI completed. CPP for Tuvalu finalised and ready to be signed. • Baseline data developed for Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu to be submitted to UNDP, WHO, UNICEF and UNOCHA for wider UN dissemination • PDNA/DRF training completed in Solomon Islands in March 2019 in collaboration with SPC and with S-SC • S-SC between Fiji, SOI and Tonga after TC Gita in Tonga in 2018	• Post Disaster Needs Assessment / Disaster Recovery Framework (PDNA/DRF) trainings for at least 3 countries and other imminent requests from countries are expected. • Pacific Disaster Net (PDN) and the Pacific Damage and Loss Assessment (PDalo) Information system to be revitalised in collaboration with SPC • Upgrade of baseline data in the countries

Achieved at mid-term | On target to be achieved | Not on target to be achieved

Progress Towards Results	By December 2019 (with no extension)	With No Cost Extension to December 2020	Summary of Achievements	Outstanding Issues
Output 3			• Focus group discussions on constraints to private insurance uptake in Apia, Samoa in June 2017. • Private Sector Preparedness Partnership day, the focus of Samoa's International Day for Disaster Reduction, October 2017 • The Pacific Regional Dialogue on the Financial Management of Climate Risks was held in Apia June 26-28 • Awareness raising session with Fiji Care and other insurers and reserve banks in Fiji • Stakeholders invited to sessions devoted to insurance at PFIP's 10th anniversary event at Financial Inclusion week • Concept note for PERF presented to Project Board in November 2017 • The Pacific's first bundled insurance product was officially launched in Fiji on 25 November 2017 covering 12,500 sugarcane farmers in Fiji • Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu have improved knowledge of climate related insurance after participating in the Pacific Regional Dialogue on Financial Management of Climate Risks in Samoa in August 2017. Vanuatu added to the list in 2018 to bring the total to 9 countries • Awareness campaign on bundled micro-insurance with employers and employees organised by FijiCare Insurance Ltd in Fiji, 2018	• The Pacific Early Recovery Fund (PERF) and the Pacific Regional Climate Risk Adaptation and Insurance (PRCRAI) are expected to be established in 2019 but will require RESPAC support for at least one year to implement, test, monitor and scale up these initiatives including the Pacific tropical cyclone seasons.

5.3.1 Output 1 – Strengthened Gender-Sensitised Early Warning and Climate Monitoring Capacity in Selected PICs

From a slow start in 2016 and 2017, the implementation rate for Output 1 activities has improved since the Associate Project Manager for CLEWS was recruited in late October 2017 and as of the end of 2018, approximately 50% of the budget had been utilised.

Following the request of the Project Board in 2017 to increase the number of countries supported by RESPAC, nine countries have been identified for direct support as opposed to three as originally proposed in the ProDoc. The countries are: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The remaining six countries also receive indirect support through the regional components of Output 1.

The following completed activities as of the end of 2018 are highlighted:

- Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) installed: five in Cook Islands and two in PNG. The Cook Islands AWS were provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Adaptation Fund and RESPAC funded the installation and initial testing of the stations.
- Provision of spare parts for 14 AWS in Fiji to repair damage caused by TC Winston in 2016.
- National and regional climate outlook fora: national forum in Vanuatu and three regional events: Fiji, 2016; Samoa, 2017; and Fiji, 2018.
- Training:
  - Three meteorologists from Kiribati, Fiji, and Tonga attended 9-month graduate diploma training in at the Australian Bureau of Meteorology in 2018.
  - Representatives from Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu attended early warning and capacity training organised by JICA and WMO.
  - Training of Met Services technicians on AWS maintenance conducted by NIWA and JICA (Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu).
  - Sector climate observer refresher training conducted in Fiji by FMS. 60 observers from sugar research, agriculture and NDMO sectors attended.
- Study tour in Solomon Islands for climate scientists and health officials from Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu to study how Solomon Islands uses the MalaClim model to predict the outbreak of malaria
- RTC feasibility study completed. RESPAC contracted the consultants to carry out the feasibility study and also provided support to the PIETR panel of PMC.

The above highlights demonstrate the diverse range of activities that RESPAC is supporting under Output 1 in strengthening capacity both in terms of climate monitoring equipment and in developing human capacity. In terms of target achievement, most of the 2017 targets have been achieved although some of them were delayed until 2018, which is understandable given that the Associate Project Manager was recruited in October 2017. The achievement of 2018 targets is somewhat mixed with several of them either ongoing or with implementation delayed until 2019. The installation of AWS equipment target of eight countries by the end of 2018 is significantly behind schedule with only two countries completed so far and the target of installing 27 AWS in nine countries and seven Aviation Weather Observation Systems (AWOS) in four countries is considered ambitious.

The MTR consultant had the opportunity to visit the FMS headquarters in Nadi while he was on mission in Fiji and attended presentations by the Director, Mr Misaeli Funaki and the heads of sections. The support provided by RESPAC is very much appreciated by FMS and includes: training of meteorologists and technicians; provision of spare parts for AWS; support for the migration from Australia Integrated Forecasting System (AIFS) to the IBL Visual Weather system; and support for the ingestion of historical and current climate data into the CLiDE database. The key strength of RESPAC noted by FMS is the direct and flexible nature of funding in contrast to other donors and the Director expressed his sincere appreciation to RESPAC for its support.

The completion of the RTC feasibility study is seen as a key achievement of the project. This initiative was not included in the original ProDoc but was later adopted as a project activity to address the capacity needs of the NMHS in the region. The initiative is broadly supported by the NMHS directors interviewed and by the Project Board at its meeting in October 2018. It is also strongly supported by the University of the South Pacific (USP) which will be a key partner in the RTC, along with FMS and potentially the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) in Samoa, in developing and delivering training courses. As a WMO facility, the proposal for the RTC will need to go through the WMO process for approval. Based on the feasibility study, a detailed proposal and a model for how the RTC would work for the benefit of the Pacific countries will need to be prepared. This was discussed at the WMO RAV meeting in Tonga in October 2018 with a decision made to continue with the process. The next stage will be further discussions by the PIETR panel at the PMC/PIMMM meeting in Samoa in August 2019. After this, the proposal will need to be developed and forwarded for the consideration of the WMO Executive Council with a formal MoU between WMO and the Permanent Representative of Fiji unlikely to be signed before the end of 2021. Therefore, the whole process may take several years to achieve formal recognition of the training centre as a WMO RTC although training courses can commence following the agreement of a governance structure and signature of appropriate MoUs by the stakeholders, partners, national governments and PMC, which could happen by early 2020 if everything goes according to plan. RESPAC has allocated further funding to support the initial activities to set up the RTC at FMS and USP in Fiji under the auspices of the PMC.

UNDP has identified four priority areas for the 2019 workplan:

- **Priority Area 1** is to create an enabling environment within the NMHS to receive the investment in the AWS equipment (Priority Area 2). Many NMHSs are financially constrained and lack basic equipment to support advanced data collection and analysis. The project will place strong emphasis on filling critical gaps within the entire climate reporting network rather than a single area.

- **Priority Area 2** deals with investment targeted at improving the climate reporting infrastructure through the acquisition of AWS.

- **Priority Area 3** concerns improving inter-sectoral collaboration between NMHS and their national counterparts with the objective of enhancing understanding of climate data and its use across sectors.

- **Priority Area 4** concerns support for other priorities that are not covered by the other 3 priority areas.

Priority 2 represents the largest investment and aims to improve the infrastructure for monitoring climate data. The provision of such infrastructure is not without risk because without adequate training and annual budgets for spare parts, maintenance and repair, the infrastructure will degrade over time. It is therefore essential to take a holistic view of climate data taking into consideration all components from provision and installation of equipment to maintenance to ingestion into climate databases and finally the production of sector-relevant climate data products. The first three priorities above recognise this fact but due consideration will also need to be given sustainability of the climate monitoring and analysis system after the end of the RESPAC project.

5.3.2 Output 2 - Preparedness and Planning Mechanisms and Tools to Manage Disaster Recovery Processes Strengthened at Regional, National and Local Level

This output has had the highest implementation rate and as of the end of 2018 had utilised approximately 90% of its original budget, although it is understood that this has been supplemented by funds transferred from the PMU budget.

The activities under this output focus on strengthening planning and coordination of recovery operations, building capacity to conduct Post Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNA) and strengthening the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) regional post-disaster support team and its capacity to respond to requests for assistance from the PICs. Progress towards achieving the project targets has been generally good, particularly in the delivery of PDNA and DRF training and in establishing CPPs for several countries. Several targets were in progress at the time of the MTR and several others were scheduled to be implemented in 2019. The likelihood of achieving all targets by the scheduled end of project in December 2019 is considered to be high.

The following completed activities as of the end of 2018 are highlighted:

- Regional PDNA and DRF Training of Trainers (ToT) training for 24 regional experts from FSM, Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu in April 2018 with the additional support of SPC, EU and the World Bank. As a result of this training, Samoa conducted its first water and sanitation sector PDNA and DRF training.
- Regional review of PDNA methodology with recommendations and a way forward produced. There is increased demand for PDNA trainings and adaptation of the methodology to national assessment frameworks.
- National training on PDNA and DRF conducted in Cook Islands and Tonga in 2017, increasing national (government and non-government) awareness, understanding and practice of valuation approaches and raising the importance of the need for improved data access and coordination to assess disaster impacts to enable full recovery from disasters.
- National PDNA and DRF training conducted in Vanuatu in April 2018. 26 officers learned how to determine economic and social costs of disasters. The training was conducted with the support of two trainers who had attended the regional ToT training.
- CPPs developed for Cook Islands, Republic of Marshall Islands and Tuvalu in collaboration with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). The CPPs are a PHT initiative to inform country disaster response and recovery for national, regional and international actors to address roles and responsibilities in addition to streamlining support after a disaster event.

- Earthquake Recovery Plan (EREP) formulated for Solomon Islands with the support of a Fijian expert in early recovery and PDNA. (South-South Cooperation)
- Fijian and Solomon Islands experts were mobilised to Tonga to support TC Gita early recover and planning. (South-South Cooperation). Resulted in the production of a DRF.
- TC Gita DRF for Tonga.

The above activities highlight the emphasis on regional coordination and South-South Cooperation promoted by the project under this output. It also highlights the growing interest in PDNAs and DRFs. RESPAC has continued with PDNA/DRF training in 2019 in collaboration with SPC with a training course in Solomon Islands in March and a further course scheduled for Vanuatu in the latter part of 2019.

The focus for Output 2 in 2019 will be on conducting the PDNA/DRF training courses in collaboration with SPC and also promoting South-South Cooperation by including a PDNA expert from Fiji in the training team if practical. The project will also complement the partnerships of the UN Team within the PHT to meet its mandate of a coordinated international humanitarian response to disasters. As part of this, RESPAC will collaborate with UNOCHA on the production of CPPs for at least a further two Pacific Island countries. RESPAC will also work with governments to develop baseline data for Sendai Framework Monitoring purposes in association with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

5.3.3 Output 3 – Increased use of financial instruments to manage and share disaster related risk and fund post disaster recovery efforts

This output has had the lowest implementation rate of all the three outputs and as of the end of 2018 had utilised about 30% of its allocated budget. The low implementation rate does not imply inefficiency but rather a different modality of implementation to the other outputs with more focus on preparing the groundwork for full implementation, which is expected to materialise in 2019.

RESPAC teamed up through an MoU with the UNDP/UNCDF[24] PFIP for this component of the project. The PFIP has 11 years experience of working with insurance stakeholders across the Pacific with 45 projects implemented providing cover to more than two million adults. Micro-insurance is one of PFIP's areas of expertise resulting from work that has been ongoing since 2015. The project had a two-pronged strategy: firstly, to increase the uptake of insurance by individuals, communities, enterprises and government agencies; and secondly, to increase the use of financial instruments to fund post-disaster recovery efforts. The first strategic prong relates to the bundled micro-insurance and parametric insurance products while the second relates to the regional Pacific Emergency Recovery Fund.

The main achievements of this output thus far are as follows:

- Concept note for the Pacific Early Recovery Fund (PERF) was submitted to the Project Board in November 2017.
- The Pacific's first "bundled micro-insurance" product was officially launched in November 2017 covering 12,500 farmers sugarcane farmers in Fiji in partnership with Fiji Care Ltd, Fiji Sugar Cane Growers Council, Fiji Dairy Cooperative Ltd and Fiji Rice Ltd. For an annual premium of FJD 52, the product provides a combined cover limit of FJD10,000 per insured person.
- In 2018, the Government of Fiji registered 100,000 civil servants and social welfare recipients under the scheme and at the time of the MTR, the total number of users was about 140,000.

[24] United Nations Capital Development Fund

- RESPAC organised a one- week workshop in Fiji in 2018 in partnership with UNDP AltFinLab to design crowd-funding platforms. More than 30 delegates from Fiji and around the region attended. The concept behind crowd funding is as one funding stream to replenish the PERF fund.

The establishment of the bundled micro-insurance product in Fiji is seen as one of the successes of the RESPAC project thus far and there are plans to introduce the product in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in 2019. Through this scheme, cover is provided for term life and funeral expenses, personal accident and damage to the main dwelling of the insured person. It is designed as a group product and members need to be an employee, member or other insured person of a named group or organisation. The organisation takes care of much of the administration such as pooling and processing of applications, which keeps costs down. While undoubtedly low cost, the cover is strictly limited as described above, and cover for damage from natural disasters is not included, which makes it unsuitable for damage caused by weather-related events. For this reason, RESPAC and PFIP are designing a parametric model to protect insurance policy holders from the negative impacts of climate change and associated hazards. An initial study has been conducted by the United Nations University association with Munich Climate Insurance Initiative (MCII). The PFIP/MCII PRCRAI project conducted a scoping study in Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu and presented its inception report to RESPAC and PFIP in March 2019. The conclusion was that overall there is interest from stakeholders in all three countries for a climate insurance product and RESPAC has earmarked further funding for 2019 to follow up and collaborate with Munich Climate Insurance Initiative to introduce effective insurance policy options that offer cover for specific weather-related events. If this proves successful, the initiative will offer innovative solutions with significant risk transferred from the public sector to the private sector.

The establishment of the Pacific Early Recovery Fund (PERF) is seen as a priority for the RESPAC project. The purpose of the PERF is to provide government agencies and NGOs from all 15 Pacific Island Countries with quick funding to support their early recovery needs following a disaster. RESPAC will provide USD700,000 in seed funding for PERF and the replenishment modality would be through a combination of bilateral donations and crowdfunding. It is planned to launch PERF in 2019 under the management of UNDP and operationalised through a LOA with SPC and will need much fine-tuning over the following 1-2 years. Critical to its success will be its ability to attract replenishments from bilateral donors and other sources. On this note, crowdfunding campaigns have been designed and are ready to be launched and can be operational within the first 24 hours after a disaster with full media coverage.

In terms of results, the main achievement thus far has been the success of the bundled micro-insurance product in Fiji and the next step for this is to expand its uptake in other PICs. The launching of the PRCRAI parametric insurance products and the regional PERF in 2019 will see the bulk of the allocated budget for this output expended so in this sense, most of the results of this component have yet to be achieved.

5.4 SUSTAINABILITY

Key question: "Are there financial, institutional, socio-economic and/or environmental risks to sustaining long-term results?"

For the RESPAC project to have lasting impact, it is important to consider the sustainability of its outcomes in the medium to long term and to develop an exit strategy for when the project ends. The ProDoc mentions in Section IX that a detailed "Project Sustainability and Exit Strategy" will be produced by the end of 2017 for the approval of key national and regional stakeholders. To the MTR consultant's knowledge this has not been prepared **and it is highly recommended that the Project Sustainability and Exit Strategy should be completed in 2019 and discussed as an agenda item at a Project Board meeting.**

The main risks to sustainability concern the availability of sufficient capacity at national level to maintain the CLEWS components developed by the project and to continue to develop preparedness, planning and recovery processes such as the PDNA and DRF. The risk to sustainability of the financial instruments to share disaster related risk and to fund post disaster recovery is mainly financial although there are also potential socio-economic risks.

Regarding the CLEWS components, the NMHS are the national agencies responsible for maintenance of the AWS installations and they will require both the technical capacity to maintain the monitoring hardware and annual budget appropriations to fund the cost of routine maintenance and remedial repairs. Without such regular appropriations the AWS will degrade over time, particularly if they are impacted by tropical cyclones. It is perhaps beyond the scope of the RESPAC project to promote this at national level but UNDP can use its influence at country level to advocate the need for annual budgets to sustain the AWS. Building the technical capacity to maintain the AWS may be challenging in some PICs due to the lack of human resources. Training of technicians may be coordinated by regional organisations such as the PMC of SPREP or the proposed RTC, if it is established. Bilateral and multilateral agencies such as JICA, NIWA, BOM and WMO may also provide support but for longer term sustainability a regional mechanism is considered more durable.

The development of a RTC in Fiji is one of the main targets of the project and its establishment would certainly enhance the number of trained meteorologists in the region. The RTC feasibility study has concluded that there is a regional demand for education and training for operational forecasting, climate services, marine and ocean services, ICT and equipment maintenance and repair. The formal recognition of the RTC as a WMO Regional Training Centre is unlikely to occur within the project life cycle although the training centre can be established following approval by the PMC and the signature of the appropriate MoUs, which may be achieved in early 2020. Sustainability of the RTC will depend on attracting sufficient numbers of trainees and on obtaining sufficient funding, which will depend on the support of donors and subscriptions from the member countries. The RTC proposal will therefore need to include a sustainable medium to long term funding model to secure its future.

To sustain the achievements of the preparedness, planning and recovery components of the project will require institutionalisation of the project outputs at the national level with the support of regional organisations such as SPC. The project has been successful at providing PDNA/DRF training in Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu and there appears to be demand for the training in other countries. Beyond the life cycle of the project it will be important to establish a regional pool of experts under the coordination of SPC that can continue the training effort on a South-South Cooperation basis and there are early signs that this is being established. The Training of Trainers regional workshop in April

2018 was successful at developing the training skills of 24 experts who have already gone on to conduct national training in Samoa and Vanuatu and similar workshops could be conducted by SPC at regular intervals to build up the pool of trainers.

The financial and socio-economic risk to sustaining the bundled micro-insurance product concerns maintaining a critical mass of policy holders to keep the product viable. Although it has been successfully introduced in Fiji with over 140,000 policy holders, government policy may shift in the future which could result in the non-renewal of over 100,000 policies. A socio-economic risk to expanding the product to other countries is the reluctance of the lower income demographic that the product is aimed at to buy insurance. This may be mitigated to an extent by a focused awareness raising and marketing campaign based on the success of the Fiji experience. The parametric insurance scheme to be introduced in 2019 is a more complex product and its sustainability will depend on being able to build the significant premium pool required to attract the re-insurance companies to enter the market and support local insurance companies. These details are still being worked out at the time of the MTR but the success of the bundled micro-insurance product in Fiji indicates that parametric insurance may also become a significant project output.

The financial risk to the Pacific Early Recovery Fund (PERF) concerns its ability to replenish after a disaster event. This will depend on the commitment of bilateral and other donors to topping up the fund and the viability of the crowd-funding platform as a replenishment modality. RESPAC's investment in the fund will provide limited cover for setting up the fund which will require fine-tuning in the first 1-2 years of operation to ensure its sustainability. Operating the fund under the UNDP umbrella should also help to keep overheads to a minimum.

On a more general note concerning financial sustainability, the RESPAC project has proven its ability to leverage funding from other donors to manage projects closely related to its core objectives, i.e. the CLEWSPIC and Schools Tsunami Awareness projects funded by India and Japan respectively and is trusted and respected by its member PICs. To maintain a Pacific regional presence in disaster risk reduction, management and resilience, UNDP may wish to consider establishing RESPAC as a programme under the Resilient and Sustainable Development Team in the Pacific Office. As such, RESPAC could take a longer-term and broader view of developing disaster resilience in the region and act as a conduit for bilateral or multi-lateral donor funding to support relevant projects. However, it is equally important that UNDP is not considered as a "competitor" for funding against other regional entities but acts as a development partner to support these organisations.

5.5 GENDER EQUALITY

As noted in Section 2.2.5, gender indicators were introduced in the revised 2017 RRF to monitor and evaluate gender mainstreaming and, where relevant, to collect disaggregated data by gender. Although the indicators were introduced in 2017, the 2017 APR made only one reference to gender (one male regional expert with improved capacity in PDNA) and the 2018 APR reported disaggregated data for the same indicator. On the other hand, the 2017 and 2018 RRFs provide more information about the numbers of females and males with improved climate early warning system and monitoring capacity, although it should be noted that for 2018 this was 100% males. However, the RRFs are shared with the donor only in the mid-year reports and it is the APRs that provide gender disaggregated data to the Project Board. It is also noted that **the annual report template allows for an additional table to present disaggregated gender data and it is recommended that this should be provided on future annual reports.**

The project design and implementation strategy can be considered gender sensitive at best and more effort should be made to encourage equal representation of women and men in project activities, where practicable and contextualised. The disaggregated gender data should be analysed on an annual basis and reported in a separate section of the annual reports. There should also be more opportunities for project activities to be gender responsive, i.e.. addressing the different needs, aspirations, capacities and contributions of women and men in the subject area of the activity. This is particularly the case for Output 2 activities as it is generally recognised that women and children are more vulnerable to the effects of disasters and therefore require special consideration in disaster recovery planning.

It is recommended that a more pragmatic approach should be adopted in future, including setting gender equality targets and performance indicators, and mandatory reporting of results in the annual progress reports.

5.6 NO COST EXTENSION

The MTR has highlighted the following factors which relate to the need for a no-cost extension to the project:

- The start of the project implementation phase was delayed while the project team was recruited and until the 2017 AWP was approved, and effectively started in May 2017.
- Under Output 1, the following activities remain to be achieved:
  - Installation of 34 AWS in Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
  - Further critical support to relevant NMHS staff for AWS maintenance and problem-solving training including data telemetry and CLiDE database storage.
  - Continued outreach to other sectors to promote climate products related to their needs and requirements.
  - Continued support for the next stage of the process to establish a Pacific-based Regional Training Centre with partners such as the USP and FMS.

- Output 2 results are nearly achieved and its allocated budget is almost expended but with re-allocation of funds from the PMU budget the following activities will be programmed:
  - Further PDNA/DRF training in at least three other countries and others on request
  - Revitalisation of the Pacific Disaster Net (PDN) and Pacific Damage and Loss Assessment (PDalo) information system in collaboration with SPC
  - Upgrade of country baseline data
- The Pacific Early Recovery Fund and the PRCRAI are expected to be launched in 2019 but will require RESPAC support for at least one year to implement, test, fine tune, monitor and scale up, including during the full Pacific tropical cyclone period.

Given the previous rate of implementation for Output 1 activities and the potential difficulties of installing AWS during the tropical cyclone season, it is considered highly unlikely that 34 AWS will be installed by the end of 2019. Considering the outstanding funds available to the project and the benefits to the region and the member PICs of continuing with project implementation, the MTR consultant concludes that an extension to the project is justified and recommends a no cost extension until 31 December 2020 to achieve its expected results.

6. Conclusions, Recommendations and Lessons Learned

6.1 CONCLUSIONS

The main conclusions of the MTR are provided below under the key questions that were addressed during the review.

1. "Is the project relevant to its stakeholders and beneficiaries and is there acknowledgement and appreciation of the work carried out by the project?"

The project design was well researched and the intervention logic and implementation strategy were based on consultations with NMHS and ministries, the institutional context and the problems to be addressed and is considered to be highly relevant to regional and national beneficiaries and other stakeholders. It also identified the important regional partners to engage with as well as the UN agencies active in the region.

All of the key informants interviewed commented that the project remains highly relevant to them and that the workplans are designed to cater for the countries needs. Some noted that while there are other related projects in the region, the RESPAC project is supporting countries that are not receiving support from other donors and also seeks to fill gaps and avoid duplication with other projects. This approach was very highly appreciated by all interviewees.

2. "What, if any, changes are required to the project design and scope so that it may strategically develop and deliver more sustainable results for its core stakeholder"

Good descriptions of the purpose of each output are provided in the ProDoc with activity result areas designed to achieve the outputs also well described. However, the comprehensive lists of indicative activities for each activity result area is considered excessive. For example, over 40 indicative activities are listed for Output 1 alone. The list of activities was reduced to a limited number of sub-activity results areas during the inception phase.

The long list of indicative activities was carried into the RRF in the ProDoc and this fed through to a long list of indicators and annual targets for each output. The RRF was revised and simplified during the inception phase with the number of activities streamlined and additional output indicators and targets introduced. However, the original output targets from the ProDoc RRF were retained with the result that there were many disconnects between the newly introduced sub-activities, their indicators and targets and the targets

carried over from the ProDoc. Given the lack of clarity in the RRF and the mismatch between some of the activity results and their respective indicators and targets, it is recommended that RESPAC uses the opportunity of a no-cost extension (if granted) to thoroughly review the RRF and revise it to make it fit for purpose as a management tool for achieving the expected results up to the end of the project.

The quality of the Annual Progress Reports is generally good and they provide concise summaries and of project achievements. However, they tend to focus more on activities than on results and a more detailed analysis of the results achieved in the subject year should be provided, rather than just the quantitative results provided in the project performance tables. Short narrative comments should be included in the project performance tables that can be correlated with the corresponding AWP. An indication of whether progress is on target to achieve expected results should also be provided. In this way, both the project team and the Project Board will be better able to monitor progress and have early warning of potential problems that might require corrective actions.

The project management structure is considered inclusive and is operating effectively to produce results and provide strategic guidance. The support provided by UNDP was rated very highly by all interviewees and there was high praise for the project team. The interviewees also appreciated UNDP's flexibility to adapt the project workplan to changing circumstances and requirements. A distinctive feature of the RESPAC project is the successful engagement with national and regional stakeholders. Strong relationships and partnerships have been developed and nurtured by the project team.

All interviewees expressed strong support for the project and it is clear that national government agencies are still engaged and supportive of the objectives of the project. The active involvement of government agencies has been a major contribution in making progress towards achieving the project's objectives and all key informant interviewees appreciated the collaborative approach of the RESPAC project. Communication between UNDP and the regional and national stakeholders has been excellent and the RESPAC project team has received high praise from the key informant interviewees for its "hands-on" approach and for keeping the stakeholder well-informed.

3. "Has the project thus far been able to deliver on its key objectives and goals as defined in the ProDoc?"

The project has implemented a considerable number of activities which are contributing to the achievement of expected results. The overall implementation rate as of the end of 2018 was about 49% which, two years into the project, is relatively low. Implementation of Output 1 activities picked up after the Associated Project Manager, CLEWS was recruited in October 2017 and at the end of 2018, approximately 50% of its allocated budget had been utilised. The implementation rate for Output 2 activities at the end of 2018 was approximately 90% and for Output 3 it was about 30%.

Output 1: Strengthened gender sensitised early warning and climate monitoring capacity in selected PICs

The following completed activities at the end of 2018 are highlighted:

- Seven Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) installed, including five stations in Cook Islands and two in PNG
- Provision of spare parts for 14 AWS in Fiji to repair damage caused by TC Winston in 2016.
- National and regional climate outlook fora: national forum in Vanuatu and three regional events: Fiji, 2016; Samoa, 2017; and Fiji, 2018
- Training:
  - Three meteorologists from Kiribati, Fiji, and Tonga trained at Bureau of Meteorology.
  - Representatives from Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu attended early warning and capacity training organised by JICA and WMO
  - Training of Met Services technicians on AWS maintenance conducted by NIWA and JICA (Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu)
  - Sector climate observer refresher training conducted in Fiji by FMS. 60 observers from sugar research, agriculture and NDMO sectors attended
- Study tour in Solomon Islands for climate scientists and health officials from Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu to study how Solomon Islands uses the MalaClim model to predict the outbreak of malaria
- RTC feasibility study completed.

The completion of the RTC feasibility study is seen as a key achievement of the project. This initiative was not included in the original ProDoc but was later adopted as a project activity to address the capacity needs of the NMHS in the region and is broadly supported by the NMHS directors interviewed by the MTR consultant and by the Project Board at its meeting in October 2018.

Output 2: Preparedness and planning mechanisms and tools to manage disaster recovery processes strengthened at regional, national and local level

The following completed activities as of the end of 2018 are highlighted:

- Regional PDNA and DRF Training of Trainers (ToT) training for 24 regional experts from FSM, Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.
- Regional review of PDNA methodology with recommendations and a way forward produced.
- National training on PDNA and DRF conducted in Cook Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.
- CPP developed for Cook Islands, Republic of Marshall Islands and Tuvalu.
- Earthquake Recovery Plan (EREP) formulated for Solomon Islands.
- Fijian and Solomon Islands experts were mobilised to Tonga to support TC Gita early recover and planning. (South-South Cooperation).

The activities highlight the emphasis on regional coordination and South-South. It also highlights the growing interest in Post Disaster Needs Assessments and Disaster Response Frameworks.

Output 3: Increased use of financial instruments to manage and share disaster related risk and fund post disaster recovery efforts

The low implementation rate does not imply inefficiency but rather a different modality of implementation with more focus on preparing the groundwork for full implementation, which is expected to materialise in 2019.

The main achievements of this output are:

- Concept note for the Pacific Early Recovery Fund (PERF) submitted to the Project Board.
- The Pacific's first "bundled micro-insurance" product was officially launched.
- The Government of Fiji has registered more than 100,000 civil servants and social welfare recipients under the bundled micro-insurance scheme.
- Workshop in Fiji in partnership with UNDP AltFinLab to design crowd-funding platforms for PERF.

The main achievement thus far has been the success of the bundled micro-insurance product in Fiji. The launching of the PRCRAI parametric insurance products and the regional PERF in 2019 will see the bulk of the allocated budget for this output expended so in this sense, most of the results of this component have yet to be achieved.

4. "Are there financial, institutional, socio-economic and/or environmental risks to sustaining long-term project results?"

The main risks to sustainability concern the availability of sufficient capacity at national level to maintain the CLEWS components developed by the project and to continue to develop preparedness, planning and recovery processes such as the PDNA and DRF. The risk to sustainability of the financial instruments to share disaster related risk and to fund post disaster recovery is mainly financial although there are also potential socio-economic risks.

For the CLEWS components, the NMHS are the national agencies responsible for maintenance of the AWS installations and they will require both the technical capacity to maintain the monitoring hardware and annual budget appropriations to fund the cost of routine maintenance and remedial repairs. Without such regular appropriations the AWS will degrade over time, particularly if they are impacted by tropical cyclones. Building the technical capacity to maintain the AWS may be challenging in some PICs due to the lack of human resources. Training of technicians may be coordinated by regional organisations such as the PMC of SPREP or the proposed RTC, if it is established.

The development of a RTC in Fiji is one of the main targets of the project and its establishment would enhance the number of trained meteorologists in the region. The RTC feasibility study has concluded that there is a regional demand for education and training for operational forecasting, climate services, marine and ocean services, ICT and equipment maintenance and repair. Sustainability of the RTC will depend on attracting sufficient numbers of trainees and on obtaining sufficient funding, which will depend on the support of donors and subscriptions from the member countries.

To sustain the achievements of the preparedness, planning and recovery components of the project will require institutionalisation of the project outputs at the national level with the support of regional organisations such as SPC. Beyond the life cycle of the project it will be important to establish a regional pool of experts under the coordination of SPC that can continue the training effort on a South-South Cooperation basis and there are early signs that this is being established.

The financial and socio-economic risk to sustaining the bundled micro-insurance product concerns maintaining a critical mass of policy holders to keep the product viable. The socio-economic risk to expanding the product to other countries is the reluctance of the lower income demographic that the product is aimed at to understand and buy insurance. This may be mitigated to an extent by a focused awareness raising and marketing campaign based on the success of the Fiji experience, recognising that micro-insurance is one way to enhance community resilience.

The sustainability of the parametric insurance scheme to be introduced in 2019 will depend on being able to build the significant premium pool required to attract the re-insurance companies to enter the market and support local insurance companies.

The financial risk to the Pacific Early Recovery Fund (PERF) concerns its ability to replenish after a disaster event. This will depend on the commitment of bilateral and other donors to topping up the fund and the viability of the crowd-funding platform as a replenishment modality.

Gender Equality

The project design and implementation strategy can be considered gender sensitive but more effort should be made to encourage equal representation of women and men in project activities, where practicable. It is recommended that a more pro-active approach should be adopted in future, including setting gender equality targets and performance indicators, and mandatory reporting of results in the annual reports.

No Cost Extension

The activities that remain to be implemented under Output 1 are:

- Installation of 34 AWS in Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
- Further critical support for AWS maintenance training.
- Outreach to other sectors to promote climate products.
- Support for the next steps of the process to establish the RTC.

For Output 2, the following activities are planned:

- Further PDNA/DRF training in at least three other countries and others on request.
- Revitalisation of the Pacific Disaster Net (PDN) and Pacific Damage and Loss Assessment (PDalo) information system.
- Upgrade of country baseline data.

For Output 3, the following activities remain to be implemented:

- The PERF and the PRCRAI product are expected to be launched in 2019 but will require RESPAC support for at least one year to implement, test, fine tune, monitor and scale up, including during the full Pacific tropical cyclone period

Given the previous rate of implementation for Output 1 activities and the potential difficulties of installing AWS during the tropical cyclone season, it is considered highly unlikely that 34 AWS will be installed by the end of 2019. Considering the outstanding funds available to the project and the benefits to the region and the member PICs of continuing with project implementation, the MTR consultant concludes that an extension to the project is justified and recommends a no cost extension until 31 December 2020 to achieve its expected results.

Appreciation of the Role of the Russian Federation

All the key informants and stakeholders interviewed by the MTR consultant expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the support of the Government of the Russian Federation for the RESPAC project and would welcome its further interventions in the region.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The MTR consultant has no specific recommendations to make regarding the activities planned for the remainder of the project and considers the activities proposed in the note on the implementation progress submitted to the Steering Committee meeting of the Russian Federation-UNDP Trust Fund for Development on 16 May 2019 to be relevant and appropriate to achieving the project's expected results. The following recommendations relate to the revision of the RRF to make it fit for purpose as a management tool, the reporting of results in the annual reports, the introduction of gender equality indicators and targets, the sustainability of results beyond the project life cycle, the raising of RESPAC's public profile and finally the need for a no cost extension:

1. UNDP to include short narrative details of project results that have been achieved in the reporting cycle in the performance data section of future annual progress reports and report on the cumulative targets achieved as well as annual target achievements so that the reports can stand alone as records of achievements. An indication of whether progress is on target to achieve expected results should also be provided.

2. UNDP to use the opportunity of a no-cost extension (if granted) to review the RRF and revise it to remove redundant indicators and targets, include appropriate indicators and targets for new activity results and make it fit for purpose as a management tool for achieving the expected results up to the approved end of the project.

3. UNDP to prepare the Project Sustainability and Exit Strategy and submit it for discussion as an agenda item at the 2019 Project Board meeting.

4. UNDP and the Project Board to adopt a more pro-active approach to gender equality, including setting gender equality performance indicators and targets in the Results and Resources Framework and mandatory numeric and narrative reporting of gender equality results in the annual progress reports.

5. UNDP to devote more resources to raise public awareness of the project activities and outputs with an improved and more informative website and more outreach material explaining the objectives and achievements of the project.

6. The Mid Term Review consultant considers that an extension to the project is justified and recommends a no cost extension until 31 December 2020 to achieve its expected results.

6.3 LESSONS LEARNED

The RESPAC project team has not kept a detailed log of lessons learned during implementation but the MTR consultant understands that the team intends to compile a log of lessons learned before the end of the project. The annual reports contain a summary of the main lessons learnt as follows:

- **2016** The importance of the inception phase with sufficient funding is highlighted. The importance of coordination between the regional agencies and donors in the installation of AWS is also highlighted to ensure that there is no duplication of effort.

- **2017** The annual report notes the importance of having a common narrative between the three project components to ensure that there is a central development theme rather than a collection of activities. The value of using consultants to improve implementation is also highlighted. The report notes the need to strengthen the communications and visibility of the project.

- **2018** The report highlights that financial investments in AWS equipment needs to be supported by adequate investment to maintain the equipment. Collaboration between the larger NMHS and their smaller counterparts is an excellent way to develop skills through South-South Cooperation.

The main lessons learned through conducting the MTR is that UNDP should allocate more time to complete the study. A longer MTR mission including visits to several of the beneficiary countries would have been useful and would have added better value to the mission. The time allocated to prepare the inception and draft MTR reports was insufficient given the scale and complexity of the project. It is suggested that UNDP bear these comments in mind for the Terminal Evaluation.

Annex 1 MTR Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference **Ref: PN/FJI-04-19**

Location:	Suva, Fiji
Tittle:	Mid Term Review Consultant
Type of Contract:	Individual Contractor
Post Level:	International Consultant
Languages required:	English
Duration of Initial Contract:	15 working days

1. BACKGROUND

The Disaster Resilience in the Pacific SIDS (RESPAC) is funded by the Russian Federation, that aims to build the overall resilience of PIC to address the negative impacts of climate change. RESPAC has

3 main components as outlined below, which are in addition to the Project Management component:

- Strengthened early warning systems and climate monitoring capacity in selected PICS;
- Preparedness and planning mechanisms and tools to manage disaster recovery processes strengthened at regional, national and local level; and
- Increased use of financial instruments to manage and share disaster related risk and fund post disaster recovery efforts.

The initiation phase of the project started in June 2016 and the project is intended to complete its activities by December 2019. Fourteen countries and one territory in the Pacific Islands region are eligible for support from this project: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Niue, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Palau, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Nauru and Solomon Islands and Tokelau. In terms of which countries get which funding and support, this was flagged for further discussion and approval of the Project Board. Some of the allocation funding and in-kind support will be available to all PICs (i.e. technical assistance in recovery); other activities such as Climate Early Warning Systems (CLEWS) and national recovery planning anticipate targeting selected countries in each respective output area, according to exposure and incidence of disasters, project criteria and where the project would add maximum value. The target countries have been identified during the inception phase based on hazard and vulnerability criteria.

The project stages interventions at a) regional and b) national levels and has built on the existing institutional strengths and at the same time contribute approaches, mechanisms and tools to further national development. Using UNDP's presence at the global, regional, and national levels, RESPAC provides strong working relationships with key stakeholders across the Pacific. Through RESPAC, UNDP has forged stronger partnerships at the national level as well as with regional and international agencies such as International Federation of the Red Cross, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPC), the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to enable project implementation that builds on respective regional strengths and initiatives.

2. OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of a mid-term review in a project context is to evaluate the overall performance and viability of the project as well as to what extent it has contributed to its primary goals i.e., as written in the original project document and how it has managed to be flexible and relevant to the needs of its core stakeholders. In this regard, the mid-term review of the Disaster Resilience in the Pacific project must be able to respond to 3 fundamental questions:

i. Has the project, thus far, able to deliver on its key objectives and goals as defined in the RESPAC ProDoc;

ii. Is the project relevant to its stakeholders and beneficiaries and is there acknowledgement and appreciation of the work carried out by the project;

iii. What if any, are changes required in the project design and scope so that it may strategically develop and deliver more sustainable results for its core stakeholders.

3. APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

Noting that the eventual candidate selected to carry out the MTR will need to, as part of the selection criteria, define an acceptable approach and methodology, the objective of this paragraph is simply to define some of the fundamental tenets which the MTR will have to observe. These tenets (in no order of priority are:

a. Consultation: A primary and overarching concern is that given the size of the Pacific and the number of potential stakeholders across the Pacific and the 15 participating countries, the candidate for the MTR should be able to consult with stakeholders concerned and provide evidence-based information that is credible, reliable and useful. Where face to face interaction is not feasible, then Consultant needs to provide innovative suggestion to overcome barriers.

b. Desk Research: The Consultant should review all relevant sources of information including documents prepared during the project preparation phase and its 2 years of implementation.

c. Participatory Approach: The Consultant is expected to follow a collaborative and participatory approach[25] ensuring close engagement with the Project Team, government counterparts (the RESPAC Operational Focal Points), relevant UNDP Offices and other key stakeholders.

[25] For ideas on innovative and participatory Monitoring and Evaluation strategies and techniques, see UNDP Discussion Paper: Innovations in Monitoring & Evaluating Results, 05 Nov 2013.

d. **Final Report:** The final MTR report should include descriptions of the approach and methodologies and the rationales for such including making explicit the underlying assumptions, challenges, strengths and weaknesses.

4. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Scope of Work

The consultancy will include, but not necessarily be limited to the following activities:

1. Identify potential project design problems, including the planned strategy;
2. Assess progress towards the achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the Project Document;
3. Identify early signs of project success or failure;
4. Review the project's de facto strategy and recommend changes to such if/as required;
5. Assess continued relevance of the expected results;
6. Compare the current management arrangements with arrangements laid out in the Project Document and recommend changes to current arrangements if/as required;
7. Make recommendations regarding specific actions that might be taken to improve the project, including new or revised activities and outputs, taking the time limitation of the project into account;
8. Assess the quality of UNDP support to the project;
9. Identify and document lessons learned;
10. Review sustainability risks; and,
11. Assess the need for a possible (non-cost) extension.

Key Deliverables and Timelines:

Deliverable	Description	Timeline
Inception Report	Consultant clarifies objectives and methods of Midterm Review	No later than 1 week before the MTR mission
PowerPoint Presentation	Initial Findings	End of MTR mission
Draft Mid-term Review Report	Full draft report (using guidelines on content outlined in Annex B) with annexes	Within 2 weeks of the MTR mission
Final Mid-term Review Report	Revised final report with audit trail detailing how all received comments have (and have not) been addressed in the final MTR report	Within 1 week of receiving UNDP comments on draft

Institutional Arrangement

The RESPAC Project Manager will act as the primary supervisor for this consultancy and will be the first point of contact for the assignment. The Associate Project Managers and the Programme Support IC will provide necessary support to the Consultant.

Duration of the Work

The consultant is expected to work on a full-time basis for 15 working days tentatively commencing in January 2019.

Duty Station:

7 days in Suva, Fiji, and 8 days home based.

5. COMPETENCIES

- Strong interpersonal and communication skills for varied cultural contexts.
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision.
- Displays gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability.
- Computer literacy (e.g. Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint) is a prerequisite.
- Additional skills and knowledge of prototyping tools and technology will be useful.

6. REQUIRED SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Educational Qualifications:

Minimum Advanced degree (Post Graduate Diploma or Master) in Environmental or Climate Science, Development Studies, Project Management or related disciplines.

Experience:

- 10 years in Climate Early Warning, climate change Adaptation, DRM, Data Analysis and/or Information Management.
- Substantial, relevant and practical working experience with the design and implementation of international development projects and/or programs. Working experience with multi- country/ regional projects and projects supported by UNDP would be an asset.
- Substantial, relevant and practical working experience undertaking external reviews/evaluations of international development projects and/or programs.
- Substantial, relevant and practical working experience in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Working experience in Pacific Island Countries would be an asset.

Language requirements

Strong verbal and written skills in English.

Price Proposal and Schedule of Payments

Daily Fee. Consultant shall quote an all-inclusive Daily Fee for the contract period. The term "all- inclusive" implies that all costs (professional fees, communications, consumables, etc.) that could be incurred by the IC in completing the assignment are already factored into the daily fee submitted in the proposal. If applicable, travel or daily allowance cost (if any work is to be done outside the IC's duty station) should be identified separately. Payments shall be done based on actual days worked, upon verification of completion of deliverables and approval by the IC's supervisor of a Time Sheet indicating the days worked in the period.

In general, UNDP shall not accept travel costs exceeding those of an economy class ticket. Should the IC wish to travel on a higher class he/she should do so using their own resources.

In the event of unforeseeable travel not anticipated in this TOR, payment of travel costs including tickets, lodging and terminal expenses should be agreed upon, between the respective business unit and the Individual Consultant, prior to travel and will be reimbursed.

Evaluation Method and Criteria

Individual consultants will be evaluated based on the following methodology.

Cumulative analysis

The award of the contract shall be made to the individual consultant whose offer has been evaluated and determined as a) responsive/compliant/acceptable; and b) having received the highest score out of set of weighted technical criteria (70%). and financial criteria (30%). Financial score shall be computed as a ratio of the proposal being evaluated and the lowest priced proposal received by UNDP for the assignment.

Criteria for Evaluation for evaluation of technical proposal (Maximum 70 points)

- Criteria 1 - Relevance of Education – **(Max 5 points)**
- Criteria 2 - Substantial, relevant and practical working experience with the design and implementation of international development projects and/or programs. **(Max 15 points)**
- Criteria 3 - Substantial, relevant and practical working experience undertaking external reviews/ evaluations of international development projects and/or programs **(Max 15 points)**
- Criteria 4 - Substantial, relevant and practical working experience in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). **(Max 10 points)**
- Criteria 5 - Relevance of proposed approach and methodology – **(Max 25 points)**

Only candidates obtaining a minimum technical score of 49 points (70% of the total technical points) would be considered further for the Financial Evaluation.

Documentation required

Interested individual consultants must submit the following documents/information to demonstrate their qualifications.

Technical Proposal

- **CV** indicating all experience from similar projects, as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of the bidder and at least three (3) professional references.
- **Proposed Methodology** which includes a brief description methodology (this should not be more than 3 pages) outlining how he/she intends to consult all stakeholders and complete the review within the allocated time.
- **Financial Proposal.**
- **Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability** as per template provided in Annex II.
- **Financial proposal**, as per template provided in Annex II.

Annexes

- **Annex I - Individual IC General Terms and Conditions**
- **Annex II – Offeror's Letter to UNDP Confirming Interest and Availability for the Individual IC, including Financial Proposal Template**

Incomplete, joint proposals and proposals sent to the wrong mailing address will not be accepted. Individuals applying for this consultancy should apply and will be reviewed based on their own individual capacity. The successful individual may sign an Individual Contract with UNDP or request his/her employer to sign a Reimbursable Loan Agreement (RLA) on their behalf by indicating this in the Offerors letter to Confirming Interest and Availability using Annex II.

Complete proposals should be submitted to etenderbox.pacific@undp.org (attachments shall not exceed 20MB or on UN JobShop (note UN JobShop supports single document upload hence ensure that technical and financial proposal is submitted as one single document) by 18th January 2019 (11.59 pm Fiji Time). For any clarification regarding this assignment please write to ronald.kumar@undp.org.

Annex 2 Evaluation Matrix

EVALUATIVE QUESTIONS	INDICATORS	SOURCES	METHODOLOGY
Progress Towards Results *– Key Question "Has the project thus far been able to deliver on its key objectives and goals as defined in the ProDoc?"*			
• Have any outputs programmed to have been delivered by this stage of the project not been achieved and what effect does this have on achievement of outcomes? • Have there been any changes to planned activities and outputs, and if so, how was the implementation schedule and budget adapted to accommodate the change(s)? • Are there any barriers to achieving project outcomes and objectives during the remainder of the project?	• Output delivery status • Impact of delays on project implementation • Changes to planned activities and outputs • Barriers to progress identified	• ProDoc • Mid-year and annual progress reports, annual workplans, minutes of project board meetings • UNDP project team	• Document review • Face to face interviews

EVALUATIVE QUESTIONS	INDICATORS	SOURCES	METHODOLOGY
Project Strategy *– Key Question "Is the project relevant to its stakeholders and beneficiaries and is there acknowledgement and appreciation of the work carried out by the project?"*			
Project Design • Do objectives and outcomes address country priorities and regional strategies? • Have issues materialized due to incorrect assumptions or changes to the context to achieving the project results as outlined in the Project Document? • Are the project activities being carried out and the outputs being delivered the most effective route to achieving the project's expected results? • Have gender issues been integrated into the project design?	• Level of coherence between project design and development priorities • Participating countries aligned with project concept • Perspectives of relevant parties • Gender issues considered in project design	• ProDoc, Project Inception Report, UNDAF Outcomes, mid-year and annual progress reports, minutes of project board meetings • UNDP project team, country partners and key stakeholders	• Document review • Interviews by phone, Skype or face to face.
Results Framework • Are the project's results framework indicators SMART? • Are the project's objectives, outcomes and outputs clear, practical and feasible within the project timeframe? • Has progress so far led to beneficial development effects?	• Results framework indicators considered SMART • Evidence at MTR stage that objectives and outcomes are feasible within project timeframe • Evidence at MTR stage that beneficial development effects are being generated	• ProDoc, mid-year and annual progress reports, annual workplans, minutes of project board meetings. • Interview with UNDP project team, country partners, other key stakeholders	• Document review • Interviews by phone, Skype or face to face

EVALUATIVE QUESTIONS	INDICATORS	SOURCES	METHODOLOGY
Project Implementation and Adaptive Management *– Key Question "What, if any, changes are required to the project design and scope so that it may strategically develop and deliver more sustainable results for its core stakeholders?"*			
Management Arrangements			
• Is the project management structure operating effectively, producing efficient results and synergies? • Has the support provided by UNDP been effective and timely? Have any problems been encountered and if so, how have these been rectified?	• Project organogram shows clear structure and lines of responsibility • Evidence that project management decisions have delivered efficient results	• ProDoc, mid-year and annual progress reports, annual workplans, minutes of project board meetings • UNDP project team, UNDP administrative staff and donor	• Document review • Face to face interviews
Work Planning			
• Have any delays been encountered in project start up and implementation? What were the causes of the delays and how have these been resolved? • Are work-planning processes based on results-based management and is the results framework being used as a management tool? Have any changes been made to it since project start? • Have any problems or delays been encountered in the transfer of funds from the donor and if so, how has this affected project implementation?	• Details of project delays and resolution • Results framework complies with results-based management • Timeline of transfer of funds against project budget requirements	• Mid-year and annual progress reports, annual workplans • UNDP project team, UNDP administrative staff and donor	• Document review • Face to face interviews

EVALUATIVE QUESTIONS	INDICATORS	SOURCES	METHODOLOGY
Project Implementation and Adaptive Management (cont.) *– Key Question "What, if any, changes are required to the project design and scope so that it may strategically develop and deliver more sustainable results for its core stakeholders?"*			
Project Level Monitoring and Evaluation Systems			
• To what extent are project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, reporting and project communications supporting the project's implementation? • Are there sufficient resources allocated for monitoring and evaluation and are these being used effectively?	• Timely and meaningful monitoring of project activities result in adaptive management measures • Funding and resource allocation for M&E	• ProDoc, mid-year and annual progress reports, annual workplans, minutes of project board meetings • UNDP project team, UNDP administrative staff	• Document review • Face to face interviews.
Stakeholder Engagement			
• Has the project developed and leveraged the necessary and appropriate partnerships with stakeholders? • Do national government stakeholders support the objectives of the project? Do they continue to have an active role in decision-making to support efficient and effective implementation? • To what extent has stakeholder involvement contributed to the progress towards the achievement of objectives?	• Partnership agreements with implementing partners and other key stakeholders • National and local governments remain committed to the project objectives • Stakeholder ownership and public awareness	• ProDoc, project inception report, minutes of project board meetings. • National Focal Points • Other key stakeholders	• Document review • Interviews by phone, Skype or face to face

Reporting			
• Have adaptive management changes been reported by project management and shared with the project board and other key stakeholders?	• Reporting of adaptive management changes to Project Board and other key stakeholders	• Mid-year and annual progress reports, minutes of project board meetings.	• Document review
Communications			
• Has communication between UNDP, the donor and the stakeholders been clear, effective and timely? • What external outreach and public awareness campaigns have been conducted and have these been effective?	• Regular, timely and effective communication between UNDP and stakeholders • Public awareness promotion and outreach campaign	• Project correspondence file, responses from stakeholders logged. • Public awareness and outreach publications, UNDP website • UNDP project team, the donor, National Focal Points and other stakeholders	• Document review • Interviews by phone, Skype or face to face.

EVALUATIVE QUESTIONS	INDICATORS	SOURCES	METHODOLOGY
Sustainability *– Key Question "Are there financials, institutional, socio-economic and/or environmental risks to sustaining long-term project results?"*			
Financial Risks to Sustainability			
• What financial and economic resources are likely to be available once the project ends?	• Commitment/pledges/intentions of country partners to invest in cash and/or in kind	• UNDP project team and UNDP senior management • National Focal Points • Donor	• Face to face interviews • interviews by phone or Skype.
Socio-economic Risk to Sustainability			
• Does the project leadership have the ability to respond to future institutional and governance changes (i.e. foreseeable changes to local or national political leadership)? Can the project strategies effectively be incorporated/ mainstreamed into future planning? • What is the risk that that the level of stakeholder ownership will be insufficient to sustain the project outcomes/benefits?	• Ownership of project outcomes by country partners. • Risk assessment of foreseeable changes to local or national political leadership.	• ProDoc, project inception report, mid-year and annual progress reports, annual workplans, minutes of project board meetings • National Focal Points and other key stakeholders. • UNDP senior management, UNDP project team.	• Document review • Interviews by phone, Skype or face to face.

Institutional Framework and Governance Risks to Sustainability • Are there legal frameworks, policies and governance structures in place and are these sufficient to sustain project outcomes and benefits? • Has the project developed appropriate institutional capacity (systems, structures, staff, expertise, etc.) that will be self-sufficient after the project closure date? • Has the project achieved stakeholders' (including government stakeholders') consensus regarding courses of action on project activities after the project's closure date?	• Legal frameworks, policies and governance structures established to sustain project outcomes and benefits • Institutional capacity developed for self-sufficiency at country level • Course of action on project activities after the project's closure agreed by stakeholders	• ProDoc, mid-year and annual progress reports, annual workplans, minutes of project board meetings • National Focal Points, government and non-government partners and other key stakeholders	• Document review • Interviews by phone, Skype or face to face.
Environmental Risks to Sustainability • Are there environmental factors that could undermine and reverse the project's outcomes and results, including factors that have been identified by project stakeholders?	• Risk assessment of environmental factors that could undermine and reverse the project's outcomes and results	• PIF, ProDoc, project inception report, mid-year and annual progress reports, annual workplans, minutes of project board meetings • UNDP project team, National Focal Points and other stakeholders	• Document review • Interviews by phone, Skype or face to face.

Annex 3 List of Individuals Interviewed or Consulted

UNDP PACIFIC OFFICE

Mr Arnoldus Gijsbertus (Noud) Leenders	Project Manager RESPAC, DRM Advisor, UNDP Pacific Office
Mr Navin Bhan	Associate Project Manager CLEWS, UNDP Pacific Office
Mr Luke Koroisave	Project Management Specialist, UNDP Pacific Office
Mr Paula Cirikiyasawa	Consultant for PERF and Early Recovery, UNDP Pacific Office
Ms Anna Lobanova	Climate Change Expert, UNDP Pacific Office
Mr Krishnan Narasimhan	Deputy Programme Manager, Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme, UNDP Pacific Office
Mr Praneel Pritesh	Financial Inclusion Specialist, UNDP Pacific Office

PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS

Mr Roy Mae	Under Secretary, Ministry of Development Planning, Solomon Islands
Mr Anare Leweniqila	Director, National Disaster Management Office, Fiji
Mr Leveni Aho	Former Director, National Disaster Management Office, Tonga
Mr Loti Yates	Director, National Disaster Management Office, Solomon Islands
Mr Arona Ngari	Director, Meteorological Service, Cook Islands
Prof Elisabeth Holland	Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development, University of the South Pacific, Fiji
Mr Abraham Nasak	Director, National Disaster Management Office, Vanuatu
Mr Ofa Fa'anunu	Director, Meteorological Service, Tonga. Chair, WMO RA V
Ms Azarel Maia	Pacific Meteorological Desk, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Samoa

CONSULTATIONS ON VANUA LEVU FIELD TRIP

Ms Sunita Reddy	Micro Insurance Manager, Fiji Care Insurance Ltd, Fiji
Mr Usenio Akuila	Voluntary weather observer, Seaqaqa Agricultural Research Station, Fiji
Ms Tokasa Lomani	Meteorological technician, Fiji Meteorological Service, Nabouwalu, Fiji

CONSULTATIONS AT FIJI METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE, NADI

Mr Misaeli Funaki	Director
Mr Adarsh Kumar	Principal Officer, IT Division
Mr Terry Atalifo	Principal Officer, Climate Services
Mr Harish Pratap	Principal Officer, Reporting & Facilities and Technical Services
Mr Stephen Meke	Officer in Charge, Forecasting Division
Mr Atish Kumar	Senior Scientific Officer, Climate Services
Mr Shivneel Prasad	Scientific Officer, Forecasting
Mr Leonard Bale	Senior Technical Officer, IT Division
Mr Charlie Johnson	Senior Technical Officer, Forecasting Division

Annex 4 List of Supporting Documents Reviewed

PROJECT DOCUMENTS

1.	Terms of Reference for the Mid Term Review of the UNDP project: "Disaster Resilience in the Pacific Small Island Developing States (RESPAC)". Ref. PN/FJI-04-19
2.	UNDP RBAP Project Document for the Disaster Resilience for Pacific SIDS (RESPAC) project. Atlas Project ID: 00098523, 11 April 2016
3.	RESPAC Project Annual Narrative and Financial Progress Report 2016, 30 December 2016
4.	RESPAC Project Annual Narrative and Financial Progress Report 2017, 8 February 2018
5.	RESPAC Project Annual Narrative and Financial Progress Report 2018, 15 February 2019
6.	Note on the progress in implementation of the project "Disaster Resilience for Pacific SIDS (RESPAC)". In preparation for the 16th Steering Committee meeting of the Russian Federation-UNDP Trust Fund for Development, Moscow, Russian Federation, 16 May 2019
7.	RESPAC Mid-Year Progress Report, 2017, undated
8.	RESPAC Mid-Year Progress Report, 2018, 02 July 2018
9.	RESPAC Project Initiation Phase Report April – December 2016 (Draft), undated
10.	RESPAC Interim Report for 1-27 February 2017. Project Initiation Consultant report, undated
11,	RESPAC Annual Workplan for 2017. Summary of activities funded and focus areas in 2017, 10 March 2017
12.	RESPAC Consolidated Budget for 2018, 14 May 2018
13.	RESPAC Draft Annual Workplan for 2019. Budget breakdown only, 20 February 2019
14.	RESPAC Annual Workplan (AWP) – 2019 and 2020. Budget breakdown only, 20 May 2019
15.	RESPAC Results Framework 2017, undated
16.	RESPAC Results Framework 2018, undated

17. RESPAC Results Framework 2019, undated

18. Minutes of the 1st meeting of the Russian Federation – UNDP Trust Fund for Development, 22 July 2015

19. Minutes of the 1st Project Board meeting (Draft), Nadi, Fiji, 17 October 2016

20. Minutes of the 2nd Project Board meeting, Nadi, Suva, 15 March 2017

21. Minutes of the 3rd Project Board meeting, Port Vila, Vanuatu, 27 November 2017

22. Minutes of the 4th Project Board meeting, Nuku'alofa, Tonga, 10 October 2018

23. Feasibility study for a Pacific-based WMO Regional Training Centre. Part 1: Regional Education and Training Needs. By Geoff Love, Maria Mamaeva and Jeff Wilson. UNDP. 26 August 2018

24. Feasibility study for a Pacific-based WMO Regional Training Centre. Part 2: Recommendations and Implementation Plan. By Geoff Love, Maria Mamaeva and Jeff Wilson. UNDP, 1 October 2018

25. Pacific Regional Climate Risk Adaptation and Insurance (PRCRAI). Inception report: developing an Implementation Framework. Munich Climate Insurance Initiative (MCII) and UNDP Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP), March 2019

26. Pacific Regional Climate Risk Adaptation and Insurance (PRCRAI). Project Summary Draft, UNDP PFIP, 09 April 2019

27. Refresher Training Workshop on Climate Observations and Reporting – Feedback Report. Compiled by Varanisese Vuniyayawa, Workshop Coordinator, October 2018

28. Bundled Microinsurance Frequently Asked Questions. Brochure prepared by Fiji Care Insurance Ltd, undated.

29. 1-3 Most Significant Outcomes. UNDP RESPAC brochure, undated

30. Disaster Resilience in Pacific Small Island States. UNDP RESPAC brochure, undated

31. Post-Disaster Needs Assessments. Volume A – Guidelines. European Commission UN Development Group and World Bank, September 2008

32. UNDP Evaluation Guidelines. Independent Evaluation Office, UNDP, January 2019

33. UNEG Quality Checklist for Evaluation Reports. UNEG/G(2010)/2. UN Evaluation Group, 2010.

Annex 5 Progress towards Results Matrix

KEY: ✓ **Achieved** ✓ **Partially achieved** ✗ **Not achieved** → **Progress ongoing**

PRODOC INDICATORS 2017 – 2018 RRF UPDATES	PRODOC TARGETS 2017 – 2018 RRF UPDATES + STATUS AT END OF YEAR ↓	
OUTPUT 1: Strengthened gender sensitised early warning and climate monitoring capacity in sele		
	2017	
# of data sharing agreements # of NMS-sector working groups # of climate early warning products produced # of sector plans that explicitly address climate risk # of sector specialists trained in CLEWS # of community dialogues # of sectors and communities implementing risk reduction measures	2 Sector CLEWS trainings conducted	✓
	2 data sharing agreements signed	✓
	2 Sector-NMS workshop groups established	✓
	National climate outlook forum conducted	✓
	Communication and media training provided to NMS	✓
	1 knowledge exchange tour	✓
# of countries with National Met Officers on improved climate early warning system (CLEWS)and monitoring capacity disaggregated by gender # of countries with improved technical capacity in CLEWS equipment	2 countries have improved climate early warning and monitoring capacity	✓
	2 countries with improved technical capacity in CLEWS equipment	✗

	DETAILS	COMMENTS
cted PICs		
	2x5 days workshops on Climate observation and reporting for NDMOs conducted in 2018. 1 in Nadi and 1 in Suva	Considering the late start to the project in 2017, many of the targets were still achieved although some of them were completed in 2018. No AWS were installed in 2017.
	1 data sharing agreement signed between Vanuatu Ministry of Health and Meteorology Department	
	1 sector working group established in Vanuatu between Ministry of Health and Meteorology Department. Health sector working group informally established in Fiji in 2018	
	Vanuatu national climate outlook forum conducted	
	Media training in Solomon Islands conducted in collaboration with SPREP in 2017	
	Solomon Islands Climate and Health Study exchange tour conducted in April 23-29, 2017 for the Malaria based Risk Index - Malaclim	
	4 countries have improved climate early warning and monitoring capacity – Vanuatu, Kiribati, Solomons and Tonga. Attended the early warning and monitoring capacity training organized by JICA and WMO	
	No results in 2017. No AWS purchased or supported installation of AWS procured through other projects	

PRODOC INDICATORS 2017 – 2018 RRF UPDATES	PRODOC TARGETS 2017 – 2018 RRF UPDATES + STATUS AT END OF YEAR	
	2018	
	2 climate observation and networks enhanced	✓
	2 data integration systems enhanced	→
	Guide to climate services produced for agriculture/health	→
	Guidelines on sector level data collection provided	✗
	Sector data correlated with climate data	✓
	Regional outlook forum supported	✓
	2 sector plans integrate climate risk	✗
	2 countries have improved climate early warning and monitoring capacity	✓
	8 countries with improved technical capacity in CLEWS equipment	→

DETAILS	COMMENTS
AWS installed and/or enhanced in Fiji, Cook Islands and PNG	Progress towards the target of installing AWS in 8 countries was made, with AWS installed in 2 countries – Cook Islands and Papua New Guinea. Spare parts were provided to repair 14 AWS in Fiji. The countries with improved climate early warning and monitoring capacity was achieved with 3 countries attending BOM meteorological training – Kiribati, Fiji and Tonga. Regional outlook fora were held in 2017 and 2018 Several targets were not achieved and there is no indication that they are programmed for 2019. These targets should be reviewed and taken out of the RRF for the remainder of the project if not valid.
1 data integration system enhanced. Vanuatu was supported with the digitisation of historical data from observing networks to CLiDE data base.	
Cook Islands and Kiribati actively engaging on climate services for agriculture	
Fiji Met Service conducted 2 workshops in Nadi and Suva with stakeholders from different sectors with the aim of having a shared understanding of climate science and to improve the quality of climate reporting. Over 60 people (50% women) attended.	
Supported PICOF 3 in Samoa in October 2017 and PICOF 4 in Nadi, Fiji in October 2018	
3 countries (Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati) have improved climate early warning and monitoring capacity. BOM Training Graduate Diploma in Meteorology Course 9 months course: 1 trainee each from Fiji, Tonga and Kiribati	
3 countries had AWS equipment installed. Cook Islands: 5 sites and PNG: 2 sites. AWS equipment spares provided to Fiji Met Service for 14 AWS damaged by TC Winston. In-house training of 15 Fiji Met Technicians (Theory & Practical Training) conducted by NIWA. Planning ongoing for installation of AWS in Niue, Tokelau, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Vanuatu in 2019.	

PRODOC INDICATORS 2017 – 2018 RRF UPDATES	PRODOC TARGETS 2017 – 2018 RRF UPDATES + STATUS AT END OF YEAR ↓	
OUTPUT 2: Preparedness and planning mechanisms and tools to manage disaster recovery proces		
	2017	
# of gender-sensitive pre-disaster recovery plans # of technical missions to assist with recovery planning # of national and regional actors capacitated in recovery assessments, including gender issues # of community consultations on recovery processes # of recovery assessments conducted, including gender analysis # of recovery monitoring tools developed	2 assessments of post-disaster planning and programming approaches	✓
	2 recovery events with PHT	→
# of regional experts that have improved capacity in Post Disaster Recovery as part of South to South Cooperation # of Country preparedness packages (CPP) informing country disaster response and recovery in PICT	3 national trainings on recovery processes	✓
	3 historical loss databases supported	→
	2 national meetings to establish recovery policy, structure and processes	✓
	Agreement on PDNA coordination/ roles with PHT members	✗

DETAILS	COMMENTS
sses strengthened at regional, national and local level	
Regional PDNA review was conducted No major disasters in 2017 requiring planning or PDNAs. Lack of planning capacity in Solomon Islands caused SOI to request RESPAC to coordinate the writing of the Earthquake Recovery Plan, which was done through South-South Cooperation	No major disasters in 2017. The coordination of the Solomon Islands Earthquake Recovery Plan counts towards assessment of post disaster planning. National training on recovery processes target was achieved for Palau and FSM. The regional expert in early recovery and PDNA target was achieved with 1 expert's capacity raised through South South Cooperation between Fiji and Solomon Islands. Progress towards some targets was ongoing into 2018.
No major disasters hence no recovery opportunities except for Earthquake recovery Plan written for Solomon Islands, coordinated with UNOCHA as Secretariat of the PHT and clusters of the PHT	
Training conducted in Palau and Federated States of Micronesia (Pohnpei and Kosrae) in 2018	
In collaboration with SPC to revitalise the Pacific Disaster Net (PDN) and the Pacific Damage and Loss Assessment Information (PDalo) systems to be supported in 2019. From 2017 discussions have been held on how to best support these databases and agreements with all stakeholders preventing earlier implementation. LOA signed with SPC to carry out this activity.	
The first session in this work was delivered in the Federated States of Micronesia and brought together representatives from the community and government from all four states.	
No formal agreement however, historical practices UNDP coordinate PDNA with EU, World Bank and national governments. PHT agencies to support sector assessments. Agencies cannot commit as this would require earmarked funding but do support in principle where and when needed as shown after TC Gita in Tonga	

PRODOC INDICATORS 2017 – 2018 RRF UPDATES	PRODOC TARGETS 2017 – 2018 RRF UPDATES + STATUS AT END OF YEAR	↓
	1 Regional expert in Early Recovery and PDNA supporting other PICT as part of South to South Cooperation	✓
	3 country preparedness packages (CPP) informing country disaster response and recovery in PICT established	→
	2018	
	2 recovery events with PHT	✓
	1 regional PDNA training for PHT	✓
	2 PDNA trainings at national level	✓
	2 baseline datasets strengthened in selected PICs	✗
	2 national-subnational recovery mechanisms established	✗
	3 UN agencies with baseline data to support national recovery processes	→
	Recovery assessment tools streamlined to the Pacific context	✗

DETAILS	COMMENTS
Capacity of 1 one male regional expert in early recovery and PDNA from Fiji has improved capacity after participating in South-South Corporation between Fiji and Solomon Islands. The outcome of this SSC was the Solomon Islands Earthquake Recovery Plan. National training on PDNA/DRF Tonga and Cook Islands	
CPP for Marshall Islands completed. Cook Islands CPP established and draft CPP to be submitted to Cook Islands in 2018. The zero draft of the Tuvalu CPP is underway	
PDNA methodology regional review conducted.	Many targets were achieved in 2018 and those that are ranked as not achieved are carried over to 2019. The regional experts in early recovery and PDNA target was achieved through a regional ToT workshop which trained 24 experts from 6 countries. Regional experts from Fiji and Solomon Islands supported Tonga's early recovery after TC Gita in 2018 through South South Cooperation. The CPP target was achieved with CPPs prepared for Cook Islands and Tuvalu (ready for signature)
Regional PDNA and DRF training and Training of Trainers for PHT and government officials.	
National training on PDNA/DRF in Vanuatu, Tonga and Cook Islands. (Tonga and Cook Islands in 2017)	
Programmed for Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in **2019**	
Programmed for Vanuatu in **2019**	
Baseline data developed for Tonga, SOI and Vanuatu will be submitted to UNDP, WHO, UNICEF and UNOCHA for wider UN dissemination.	
Solomon Islands PDNA/DRF training completed **March 2019** in collaboration with SPC and S-SC. Same PDNA/DRF training scheduled for Vanuatu in **June 2019**	

PRODOC INDICATORS 2017 – 2018 RRF UPDATES	PRODOC TARGETS 2017 – 2018 RRF UPDATES + STATUS AT END OF YEAR	↓
	5 Regional experts in Early Recovery and PDNA supporting other PICT as part of South to South Cooperation	✓
	2 country preparedness packages (CPP) informing country disaster response and recovery in PICT established	✓
OUTPUT 3: Increased use of financial instruments to manage and share disaster risk and fund pos		
	2017	
# of SMEs with business continuity plans # of disaster risk products being developed # of recovery projects implemented # of individuals and institutions trained in disaster risk financing	1 assessment of constraints to private insurance uptake	✓
# of innovative climate related insurance-based solutions designed and shared with the insurance industry # of countries with SMEs that have improved knowledge of climate related insurance cover # of countries that have access to RESPAC Early Recovery Fund (Pacific Early Recovery Fund – PERF)	1 assessment of public sector insurance cover	✓

DETAILS	COMMENTS
Training of Trainers for PDNA and DRF - Tonga, Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji. 24 regional experts (19 males and 5 females) from Tonga, Samoa, FSM, Solomons, Vanuatu, RMI and Fiji, Pacific Community, EU Delegation and UNDP have improved capacity in Post Disaster Needs Assessment and Disaster Recovery Framework As a direct result of the TOT, Samoa conducted the first sector PDNA and DRF workshop for the infrastructure sector in country, and without outside support Supported Tonga for TC Gita early recovery coordination and planning through S-SC between Fiji, Solomon Islands and Tonga	
Country Preparedness Packages (CPP) informing country disaster response and recovery in Cook Islands finalized. The final draft of the Tuvalu CPP is ready to be signed.	

st-disaster recovery efforts at the national and local levels (5-10-50) pathway 4)

In collaboration with Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP). Focus group discussions in Apia, Samoa in June 2017. Private Sector Preparedness Partnership day, the focus of Samoa's International Day for Disaster Reduction, October 2017	Most of the 2017 targets were achieved and progress towards the major target of establishing the Pacific Early Recovery Fund (PERF) was ongoing into 2018 (and 2019). The concept note for PERF was submitted to the Project Board for review in November.
The Pacific Regional Dialogue on the Financial Management of Climate Risks was held in Apia June 26-28. The workshop explored experiences of climate risk financing such as the Caribbean Risk Insurance Facility, the African Risk Capacity and the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Insurance Facility including insights into how they function and how they can be incorporated or developed further to assist the proposed Pacific facility and discuss viable option that are of interest to the insurance and re-insurance market worldwide	A major achievement was the establishment of the Pacific's first bundled micro-insurance product, which was launched in November with 12,500 sugarcane farmer policy holders

PRODOC INDICATORS 2017 – 2018 RRF UPDATES	PRODOC TARGETS 2017 – 2018 RRF UPDATES + STATUS AT END OF YEAR	↓
	2 awareness sessions for financial institutions	✓
	Early recovery fund guidelines produced	→
	Early recovery fund operational	→
	1 innovative climate related insurance-based solutions designed and shared with the Insurance Industry	✓
	10 countries with SMEs that have improved knowledge of climate related insurance cover	✓
	0 countries that have access to RESPAC Early Recovery Fund	→
	2018	
	Feasibility study of multi-donor recovery trust fund	✓

DETAILS	COMMENTS
Awareness raising session with FijiCare and other insurers as well as several Reserve Banks. PFIP have undertaken major consultations in Fiji. At the regional level, a Financial Inclusion Week coincided with PFIP's 10th anniversary celebration. A number of stakeholders were invited and specific sessions were devoted to Insurance.	
PERF preparations ongoing	
Concept note for PERF was presented to the RESPAC Board meeting in Vanuatu in November. Front end designed and operational in rough mode since design workshop.	
The Pacific's first bundled insurance product was officially launched in Fiji on 25 November covering 12,500 sugarcane farmers. FijiCare Insurance Limited announced the launch in partnership with the United Nations – Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP) and the Sugar Cane Growers Fund (SCGF)	
8 countries with SMEs have improved knowledge of climate related insurance. (Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu have improved knowledge of climate related insurance after participating in the Pacific Regional Dialogue on Financial Management of Climate Risks in Samoa in August.	
Concept Note of the Pacific Early Recovery Fund was presented to the RESPAC Board meeting in Vanuatu in November	
UNDP through a workshop on crowdfunding developed the original concept note for PERF which is the equivalent of the Multi Donor Recovery Trust Fund that the PRODOC anticipated.	Progress towards the major target of establishing the PERF was ongoing in 2018 and into 2019.

PRODOC INDICATORS 2017 – 2018 RRF UPDATES	PRODOC TARGETS 2017 – 2018 RRF UPDATES + STATUS AT END OF YEAR	
	~~2 awareness sessions for financial institutions~~	
	3 recovery projects under implementation	✗
	1 detailed insurance demand study for specific sector	→
	Bundled micro-insurance awareness with employers and employees	✓
	Bundled micro-insurance product developed	✓
	1 innovative climate related insurance-based solutions designed and shared with the Insurance Industry	✓
	10 countries with SMEs that have improved knowledge of climate related insurance cover	✓
	0 countries that have access to RESPAC Early Recovery Fund	→

KEY: ✓ **Achieved** ✓ **Partially achieved** ✗ **Not achieved** → **Progress ongoing**

DETAILS	COMMENTS
This target is repetitive and should be deleted	The bundled micro-insurance product increased its number of policy holders in Fiji to about 140,000 with the registration of civil servants and social welfare recipients by the Fijian government. A target for the Pacific Regional Climate Risk Adaptation and Insurance (PRCRAI) is missing and should be included in the 2019 RRF. 2019 will be a significant year for the achieving Output 3 targets as both the PERF and the PRCRAI are expected to launch
A fisherman's study is in progress	
Awareness campaign organised by FijiCare Insurance Ltd.	
The Pacific's first bundled insurance product was officially launched in Fiji on 25 November 2017. The number of policy holders increased to around 140,000 in 2018 with the registration of civil servants and social welfare recipients by the Government of Fiji	
As above	
9 countries (8 countries from2017 plus Vanuatu in 2018)	
In progress in Fiji and Vanuatu. UNDP will sign an LOA with SPC operationalizing the PERF in 2019	

Annex 6 Consultant Biography

Tony Elliott has 40 years experience in research and operational oceanography and the intergovernmental coordination of tsunami warning and mitigation systems. He has an MSc in Marine Earth Science and has broad experience in marine geophysics, physical oceanography, numerical modelling, environmental studies, and coastal zone management. From 2006 to 2016, he worked for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO as Head of Secretariat for the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWMS) based in Perth, Western Australia. Since 2016, he has specialised in monitoring and evaluation consultancy. He conducted the terminal evaluation for the Indonesian Funds in Trust (IFIT) programme for UNESCO Jakarta and was team leader and institutional, legal and governance specialist for the Mid-Term Review of the UNDP/GEF International Waters project: "Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia". He has also conducted a terminal evaluation for the UN Environment project "Integrated Management and Governance Strategies for the Delivery of Ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals" and completed a strategic analysis of the future of the North-East Atlantic, Mediterranean and Connected Seas Tsunami Information Centre.

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