

Disaster Resilience for Pacific Small Island Developing States

(RESPAC)

Terminal Evaluation

Final Report March 2021

Project / Outcome information		
Project Title:	Disaster Resilience for the Pacific Small Island Developing States (RESPAC)	
Atlas ID	00111184	
Corporate outcome and output	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthened early warning systems and climate monitoring capacity in selected PICS; 2. Preparedness and planning mechanisms and tools to manage disaster recovery processes strengthened at regional, national and local level; 3. Increased use of financial instruments to manage and share disaster related risk and fund post disaster recovery efforts. 	
Participating Countries:	Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Kiribati, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, RMI, Palau	
Region	Pacific	
Project dates	Start	Planned end
	1 st June 2016	December 31 st 2020 [no-cost extension to April 2021]
Date project document signed	March 2016	
Project ID:	00098523	
Project Budget:	Total: USD 7,500,000 TFD: USD 7,500,000	
Project expenditure at the time of the evaluation (to June 2020)	USD 6,853,428	
Funding source	UNDP Russia Federation Trust Fund for Development (TFD)	
Implementing Party:	UNDP Pacific Office	

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

APR	Annual Project Review
AWOS	Aviation Weather Observation System
AWP	Annual Work Plan
AWS	Automatic Weather Station
CLEWS	Climate Early Warning System
CLEWSPIC	Climate Early Warning Systems in Pacific Island Countries
CLIDE	Climate Data for the Environment
CPP	Country Preparedness Package
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DRF	Disaster Recovery Framework
EA	Executing Agency
EREP	Earthquake Recovery Plan
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
EU	European Union
FMS	Fiji Meteorological Service
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEM	Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division (of SPC)
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCII	Munich Climate Insurance Initiative
MHEWS	Multi Hazard Early Warning System
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTR	Mid-Term review
NCOF	National Climate Outlook Forum
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NIWA	National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (New Zealand)
NMHS	National Meteorological and Hydrological Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (USA)
PAC	Project Appraisal Committee
PDalo	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 Islands Climate Outlook Forum
PICTs	Pacific Island Countries and Territories
PIETR	Pacific Islands Education Training and Research Panel (of PMC)
PIF	Project Identification Form
PIMMM	Pacific Islands Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology
PMC	Pacific Meteorological Council
PMU	Project Management Unit
PRCRAI	Pacific Regional Climate Risk Adaptation Insurance
PREP	Pacific Resilience Program
ProDoc	Project Document
RCOF	Regional Climate Outlook Forum
RESPAC	Disaster Resilience for Pacific Small Island Developing States project

RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
RRF	Results and Resources Framework
RTC	Regional Training Centre
SAP	Strategic Action Plan
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPC	The Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TC	Tropical Cyclone
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNPS	United Nations Pacific Strategy
USP	University of the South Pacific
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

Executive Summary

RESPAC Terminal Evaluation Report

Project / Outcome information		
Project Title:	Disaster Resilience for the Pacific Small Island Developing States (RESPAC)	
Atlas ID	00111184	
Corporate outcome and output	4. Strengthened early warning systems and climate monitoring capacity in selected PICS; 5. Preparedness and planning mechanisms and tools to manage disaster recovery processes strengthened at regional, national and local level; 6. Increased use of financial instruments to manage and share disaster related risk and fund post disaster recovery efforts.	
Participating Countries:	Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Kiribati, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, RMI, Palau	
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Implementing Party:	UNDP Pacific Office	

The Terminal Evaluation of the RESPAC project was carried during November 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic meant that no in-country mission was possible, as a consequence the Evaluation is based on desk research along with e-consultation processes to provide data and validation.

Findings

After a slow start, the project has proven to be well implemented, with a collaborative approach that has successfully addressed the specific targets / indicators set out in the project design. The collaboration and partnerships with existing Pacific regional agencies and institutions have been particularly effective. The project has moved beyond the specific targets to addressing broader regional needs as they have been identified. The project has acted as a catalyst for the mobilisation of additional funds to address key risks and national needs.

Overall, the project has been pro-active in its work, and its approach has been highly valued by participating countries and territories, as well as project partners. Stakeholders commented on the high level of flexibility and responsiveness of the project and the project team, perhaps uniquely so for projects of this type.

COVID-19 has impacted on project delivery throughout 2020, and additional project time has allowed outstanding elements to be completed in early 2021.

Findings for key evaluation criteria are summarised below:

Relevance: The project is highly relevant to the needs of the region and addresses key areas of risk and vulnerability for Pacific islands countries and territories. The Key development priority areas addressed are:

- Climate data and monitoring
- Early warning and preparedness
- Resilient recovery

The project design is well aligned with key UNDP strategies (in particular the sub-regional program document (SRDP) for the Pacific island countries and territories 2018 to 2022, and United Nations Development Assistance Framework) and Pacific regional strategies.

Effectiveness: The project is on track to achieve all the cumulative annual indicator targets by the end of the project.

Efficiency: Project implementation started slowly but by mid-2020 approximately 91% of total funds had been utilized. Management arrangements have operated with efficiency and flexibility.

Impact: Project impacts are expected over the long term. At the same time the project has assisted in direct disaster response and in this context project reports indicate that RESPAC has contributed to supporting recovery needs for over 10,000 families, in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Sustainability: For the Pacific Islands region, risk and vulnerability are ongoing, particularly in relation to climate change. Some project outputs can be maintained at national level but only within national budget constraints. Sustainability cannot be assured without ongoing need for continued institutional support for Pacific Island governments.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: In relation to future Project design

To address some of the design issues encountered in the project, the TE recommends that UNDP consider the following in future project design:

- Include a coherent overall design concept that links activities and targets with high level goals and aspirations that set the scene for project activities
- Include explicit provisions to address inclusion of women, youth and vulnerable people in project activities and outcomes, as well as reporting
- Include appropriate M&E provisions, including realistic indicators and targets that support clear reporting that, taken together, can be used to assist project management
- Incorporate flexibility and clear opportunities for stakeholder (i.e. participating country and territory) input into project management decisions

Recommendation 2: In relation to future Project implementation

Where procurement is a significant component of the project design, the TE recommends that specific expertise (or resources) be assigned to this aspect of the project to ensure quality [fitness for purpose] and timeliness in the procurement of goods and services.

Recommendation 3: On sustainability

Recognising that there will be an ongoing need for support in the sectors targeted by this project, the TE recommends that UNDP work with donors to develop a follow-up project that continues and/or scales up the work, in line with relevant regional strategies and plans.

Lessons Learned

Lessons learned from the project implementation include:

- i) The important role that regional strategies and plans play in guiding effective use of development support
- ii) The benefits provided by a participatory and flexible governance model
- iii) The need for ongoing capacity development to underpin institutional support.

1. Introduction and Overview

This report presents the results and findings of the Terminal Evaluation review of the Disaster Resilience in Pacific Small Island Developing States (RESPAC) project. The project aim is to build the overall resilience of Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to address negative aspects of climate change. The RESPAC project design (Monitoring and Evaluation provisions) requires that:

An independent *final external evaluation* will be conducted upon completion of the project activities by an external consultant.

The RESPAC project has been running since 2016 and due to close (in line with project extensions) in April 2021. This Terminal Evaluation is therefore scheduled at the conclusion of the project in order to assess project implementation and results, and to document lessons and learning to inform future programming.

The report is set out in three parts:

- Introductory and background material (sections 1-5)
- Detail on project activities and achievements (Section 6)
- Conclusions and recommendations (sections 7-9)

2. Project Description

Regional 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 fewer than three million people reside in the remaining Pacific island countries and territories.

The region has a highly variable climate, which is heavily influenced by the Pacific El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO). The region is exposed to natural hydro-meteorological and geological hazards such as cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, droughts and floods. On average the region experiences four major weather-related disasters each year.

Since 1950 extreme events have affected 9.2 million people in the region, causing 9,811 fatalities. According to the report "Hydro-meteorological Disasters in the Pacific", there were 615 disaster events in a thirty-year period (1983-2012), of which 75% were hydro-meteorological in nature. The total cost of these disasters in the same period is estimated at USD 3.9 billion.

Major sources of disaster and risk in the region are:

- *Tropical cyclones* made up 42% of all disasters in the Pacific Islands region between 1983 and 2012
- *Floods* represented 16% of disasters in the region
- *Droughts* made up 4% natural disasters in the region
- *Sea Level Rise (SLR)* is projected to contribute to greater storm surge impact, and exacerbate the effects of extreme weather events resulting in sea flooding and erosion of low-lying coastal areas and atoll states, as well as having effects on fresh groundwater supplies and reef ecosystems
- *Climate Change*: Climate change is expected to accentuate the challenge of managing disasters, for example through projected increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.

The RESPAC project

The Disaster Resilience in the Pacific SIDS (RESPAC) project is funded by the Russian Federation, with a total project budget of USD7,500,000. The purpose and direction of the project is set out in the Project Document (ProDoc) which states that the project aims to:

Improve Pacific SIDS resilience to Climate related hazards

The overall project goal is to:

effectively address the consequences of, and responses to, climate related hazards

RESPAC has three main Outputs as outlined below, along with a Project Management component:

Output 1: Strengthened early warning systems and climate monitoring capacity in selected PICs;

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.

The initiation phase of the project started in June 2016 and the project was intended to complete its activities by December 2019, however a no-cost extension was approved in mid-2019 for closure in December 2020. Fourteen countries and one territory in the Pacific Islands region are eligible for support from the 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.

Further elaboration of the Outputs and activities is set out in tables 1 - 3 below.

Table 1: RESPAC project design Output 1	
Output 1:	Strengthened Gender Sensitive Early Warning Systems and Climate Monitoring Capacity in [selected] PICS
Activity Result 1.1	Increased capacity within national and regional meteorological services to generate user-relevant information on climate risks
<i>Activity Result 1.1.1</i>	<i>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.</i>
<i>Activity Result 1.1.2</i>	<i>Improved understanding of traditional knowledge developed in collaboration with national and regional stakeholders including documenting and sharing of best practices.</i>
Activity Result 1.2	Increased capacity of selected PICS to disseminate and use tailored information on climate to relevant end-users
<i>Activity Result 1.2.1</i>	<i>Capacity of Media and Community members enhanced in understanding, summarizing and disseminating climate related information products.</i>

Table 2: RESPAC project design Output 2	
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.
<i>Activity Result 2.1.1</i>	<i>Strengthen capacity of selected PIC governments to establish disaster preparedness and post disaster recovery.</i>
<i>Activity Result 2.1.2</i>	<i>Strengthen capacity of selected PIC governments to coordinate and manage disaster preparedness and post disaster recovery.</i>
Activity Result 2.2	Enhanced capacity of the Pacific Humanitarian Team to provide recovery support to countries following disaster events.
<i>Activity Result 2.2.1</i>	<i>Enhanced capacity of UN Country Team to support recovery across relevant sectors.</i>
<i>Activity Result 2.2.2</i>	<i>Improved Coordination with regional actors and donors to support implementation of recovery frameworks.</i>

Table 3: RESPAC project design Output 3	
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.
<i>Activity Result 3.1.1</i>	<i>Innovative cost-effective insurance products specifically in response to weather events identified through feasibility assessments and consideration of views of clients and insurance brokers.</i>
Activity Result 3.2	Increased use of financial instruments to fund post disaster recovery efforts.
<i>Activity Result 3.2.1</i>	<i>Enhanced understanding of the opportunities and impediments to disaster related financing and introduction of new policies to assist Governments with post disaster funding.</i>

3. Evaluation Scope and Objectives

Evaluation scope

The Terminal Evaluation (TE) covers the whole term of the project through to December 2020. The TE assesses project performance against expectations set out in the project's Logical Framework/Results Framework in line with the approach outlined in UNDP Guidance for the preparation of Terminal Evaluations. The evaluation uses the OECD/DAC criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability. The geographic focus is the Pacific Island countries and territories targeted by the project.

Evaluation purpose

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Terminal Evaluation (attached as Annex A) state that primary objective is to assess several factors relating to the project:

- Achievement of project results against what was expected to be achieved and draws lessons that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from this project and aid overall enhancement of UNDP programming;
- The contribution and alignment of the project to relevant national development plans and contribution of project results towards the Sub Regional Programme Document (SRPD) and the United Nation Pacific Strategy (UNPS/UNDAF);
- Assess any cross cutting and gender issues; and
- Examine the use of funds and value for money.

4. Evaluation Approach, Methods and Analysis

Evaluation Design

The overall approach to the TE is guided by the review's purpose, objectives, and key review questions, as signaled in the Terms of Reference, and UNDP guidance material.

The TE Team's approach is to follow a series of steps including document review, interviews with project staff and interviews with national and other stakeholders as elaborated below. Cumulatively, this process will inform evaluative judgements on the issues addressed by the TE, including the relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency of activities.

Methodology

The TE comprised the following process and sequence:

a) E-consultation and on-site field evaluation

The advent of COVID-19 and associated travel restrictions had a significant effect on the evaluation process. It was initially envisaged that in-country missions may be carried out to collect and/or validate data, however this was not possible under the COVID-19 restrictions. Further consideration was given to the hire of national consultants to assist in selected countries to assist with data collection/validation on site; this too was considered impractical in the timeframe. As a result, discussions with stakeholders were conducted through e-consultation methods as described below.

b) Desk Research

Relevant documentation was provided by UNDP project staff and other stakeholders as available. Documentation comprised reports and outputs resulting directly from work under the project, as well as workshop / meeting records and relevant regional and national plans and strategies, including:

- Project design documents (incorporating the Results and Resources Framework)
- Annual and semi-annual project reports
- Records of project Board meetings, and associated workplans and budget
- Reports and analysis of training events
- Project activity descriptions, reports and associated products
- Relevant sector and agency strategies and plans
- Prior Mid-Term review (MTR) of the project

c) Semi-structured e-interviews

Interviews with stakeholders were undertaken remotely using internet-based applications; Skype, Zoom or similar either individually, or through group discussions (UNDP/project staff). Stakeholder consultations were based on the sample evaluation questions in the ToR. The interviews themselves were semi-structured in character; guided by the key questions, while allowing participants to expand freely on their own areas of experience and expertise.

Evaluation Stakeholders included:

- UNDP project (and other) staff
- Participating country representatives, in particular
 - National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs)
 - National Meteorological Office Directors
- Other partners, including
 - USP
 - SPREP
 - WMO
 - SPC
 - OCHA
 - UNDRR

The total number and selection of stakeholders for interview was limited by the availability of relevant personnel during the period of the TE.

d) Data Review and Analysis

A mixture of qualitative and quantitative data was collected during the desk research and stakeholder interviews / e-consultation. Data was reviewed, collated and analysed, and presented in the report in narrative or tabular form as appropriate.

e) Final Report

The TE Report was provided to UNDP for review, and the final Report incorporates feedback received.

Evaluation Schedule

The TE review was carried out during the month of November 2020 as shown below.

Table 4: Timeline for preparation of RESPAC TE 2020						
	Week 1	2	3	4	5	6
Activity / week starting date	26 Oct 2020	2 Nov	9 Nov	23 Nov	30 Nov	7 Dec 2020
Contract signed						
Inception Report						
Consultations Project staff						
Consultations PICTs and partners						
Preliminary findings						
Submit draft MTR Report						
Feedback on draft TE (UNDP etc)						
Final TE Report						
Contingency for final tidy-ups ¹						

Limitations in the Evaluation

The major limitations in carrying out the TE were:

- Timing of the evaluation – the evaluation was carried out during November, meaning there was limited flexibility around scheduling of consultations preparation of the TE Report.
- COVID-19 – the constraints resulting from COVID -19 meant that all consultations were held remotely. It proved difficult to schedule a full programme of consultations due to stakeholders' other commitments, as well as a degree of 'zoom fatigue'
- There was limited opportunity to follow-up specific issues in detail, as a result of which the Report is largely drawn from existing documents and reports, verified to some extent through stakeholder interviews.

¹ Note that the TE Consultant was re-contracted briefly in February 2021 in to a) add additional content arising from feedback provided after closure of the initial contract b) align with a no-cost extension of the Project to April 2021.

5. Findings

In line with the Terms of Reference, findings are presented in several areas:

- Project design / formulation: assessment of the project as designed
- Project Implementation; review of implementation mechanisms and practice
- Project results: presentation of activities and achievements, assessment against relevant results frameworks and key measures (including: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact)
- Summary of main findings (Section 6)

Where relevant, the TE addresses the specific evaluation questions from the Terms of Reference (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency etc.). In these instances, the evaluation questions are included in *italic font*².

5.1 Project Design/Formulation

This section comments on the project as designed, drawing primarily from the Project Document (ProDoc).

National priorities and country driven processes

The project ‘contemplates a two-pronged approach, staging interventions at a) regional and b) national levels’. The project design drew strongly from regional and multilateral commitments in the areas of climate meteorological services and disaster management / resilience. The approach addresses national commitments made through international mechanisms (e.g. under the Sendai framework), supplemented with country-specific detail being established through direct engagement. The MTR reported that engagement was undertaken through national consultations during the design phase, and also highlighted the project’s alignment with National Development Plans of participating countries.

Theory of Change

The theory of change for the project is set out in the Prodoc in a sequence of steps:

- a) Problem Description: the Prodoc presents the case that ‘sustained enhancement of individuals and societies’ capabilities necessary to reduce persistent vulnerabilities’ leading to a focus on ‘resilient human development’ based on risk reduction. For the Pacific Islands region, it concluded that ‘greater effort is needed to develop a stronger disaster and risk management culture’ to address a range of capacity gaps and institutional issues facing the region, including;
 - Weak climate monitoring capacity and insufficient number of reliable meteorological and hydrological monitoring stations to collect climate and environmental information through an integrated network;
 - Lack of sufficient technical capacity and support infrastructure to effectively operate, maintain and repair weather monitoring stations;

² To avoid repetition, the questions are not included if they are already covered in other areas of the report

- Limited human and financial resources reduce the ability to manage post disaster recovery efforts;
 - Government and community assets are not adequately insured and few have, or have access to, financing reserves to fund post disaster recovery.
- b) Overview of Response options: The Prodoc provided a short overview of options, focusing on strengthening climate services through climate early warning systems, developing post disaster recovery processes and establishing risk financing mechanisms that increase ability to recover from disaster impact.
- c) Intervention Logic: The Prodoc encapsulated the overall intervention approach in stating:

The proposed approach acknowledges the importance of planning and preparing for climate and disaster risk, and ensuring that PICs have the capacity to mitigate, withstand and spring back from the impacts of a disaster event. This project enables the Pacific region to support efforts for resilient recovery and development; making risk central to development processes allows for greater articulation, coordination and alignment with the disaster and climate risk management practices and ensuring that capacity, information access and analysis are elevated to ensure risk-informed decision-making, planning and actions.

- d) Strategy and Approach: Drawing on the above, the Prodoc set out the project's 'focus on a few niche areas and countries where Russian assistance can have maximum impact'. It also noted that 'The approach calls for close partnership with other regional organizations and development partners, to provide the support, technical assistance and results necessary to meet the priority needs of the PICs' and concluded that:

Given the identified gaps, the work of other organizations, and the specific skills, experience and competencies of UNDP, there is a clear rationale for the project to focus on the following areas:

- *Strengthening early warning systems and climate monitoring capacity;*
- *Strengthening preparedness and planning mechanisms and tools to manage disaster recovery process at local, national and regional levels; and*
- *Increasing the use of financial instruments to manage and share disaster-related risks and fund post-disaster recovery efforts.*

Gender equality and women's empowerment

The Prodoc highlights the need for 'gender sensitive' approaches under the project, including:

Output 1:

- Gender-sensitive climate products
- Gender-sensitive community responses/actions to reduce climate risk

Output 2:

- Gender analysis in recovery preparedness planning and programming
- Gender-sensitive post-disaster assessments and recovery assessment methodologies
- Gender mainstreamed recovery plans

Analysis of Results Framework, indicators and targets

The project at design included a Results and Resources Framework (RRF) setting out (amongst other things), Intended Outputs (with Indicators), Output Targets, and Indicative Activities, along with associated allocation of resources (funds) under the project. Further, more detailed elaboration of activities was provided in an indicative Annual Work Plan (AWP) for 2016-17.

The character and content of the Results Framework was subject of significant comment on the Mid-Term Review, and in that context is discussed further under 'Adaptive Management' below.

Assumptions and Risks

The project as a whole is focused on risk and vulnerability in participating countries and territories, however the Prodoc is relatively light in its consideration of risks to project implementation. Risk management is addressed through 'risk management standard clauses' that refer to specific risk factors in the areas of security, management of funds, and social and environmental standards.

The Project Board (described below) has an implicit role in managing project risk through, for example:

- Its role in project oversight and 'assurance'
- Making management decisions 'when guidance is required by the Project Manager and when project tolerances have been exceeded'.
- Ensuring that 'required resources are committed and arbitrates any conflicts within the project or negotiates a solution to any problems between the project and external bodies'.

Planned stakeholder participation

The Prodoc lists a number of key partners and their expected roles. At the national level the project was designed to target partner agencies in Pacific island governments, including; national planning offices, national meteorological services, selected line ministries, and where applicable, national disaster management offices.

At the regional level several key partner agencies were identified including the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Pacific community (SPC), The Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC), and members of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP).

UN agencies with a direct role in the project were also identified including; The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) through its Regional Office for Asia and the South West Pacific, and the United Nations office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) through its regional office for Asia Pacific.

The role of the Russian Federation is primary donor provision was made for drawing on Russian expertise specifically through the national Emergency Management Centre (EMERCOM) and the Russian Federation Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring (ROSHYDROMET).

Linkages between project and other interventions within the sector

Linkages are identified in the Prodoc with a range of complementary existing projects, including:

- Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac)
- Finnish-Pacific Project (FINPAC)
- Pacific Resilience Program (PREP)
- Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI)

Management arrangements / governance structure

The primary mechanism for project governance structure was the Project Board, comprising the Russian Federation and representatives from beneficiary countries/territories and UNDP (including the Project Director and PMU staff). Other agencies, such as the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) were able to participate in Board meetings as observers.

During the term of the Project the Board met on five occasions:

First Meeting: Nadi, Fiji, October 2016

Key decisions: Inaugural meeting that 'did not require any decisions to be taken'

Representation: Russian Federation, Fiji, Cook Islands, FSM, Kiribati, Niue, PNG, RMI, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, UNDP, WMO, SPREP, NIWA

Second Meeting: Suva, Fiji, March 2017.

Key decisions: endorsement of 2017 Work Plan for the Project

Representation: Russian Federation, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.
Agencies: UNDP, NIWA, PIFS, SPREP, WMO.

Third Meeting: Port Vila, Vanuatu, November 2017

Key decisions: Presentation of 2017 annual Report and endorsement in principle of 2018 Work Plan for the Project

Representation: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu. Agencies: UNDP, JICA, SPC, NIWA, PIFS, SPREP, WMO.

Fourth Meeting: Nuku'alofa, Tonga, October 2018

Key decisions:

- Noted request for no-cost project extension to 2020
- Noted critical role of climate data for evidence-based planning and decision-making
- Noted the critical importance of stakeholder collaboration
- Taskforce established to look at details of Regional Training Centre (RTC) concept
- 2018 Annual Report endorsed
- Project mid-term review endorsed
- Draft 2019 Annual Workplan endorsed (with comments)

Representation: Russian Federation, Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, PNG, RMI, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu. Agencies: UNDP, JICA, WMO, NOAA/NWS, USP.

Fourth Meeting: Pacific Harbour, Fiji, March 2020

Key decisions:

- Unanimous endorsement of NDMO Directors' Statement of Intent for COVID-19
- Reviewed and endorsed 2019 project achievements
- Members support / joint request for up-scaling RESPAC project
- Resource Results Framework considered for endorsement
- PMU to provide clarification to Russian Federation on issues raised
- 2020 Annual Workplan endorsed in principle
- Countries to send detailed country needs/plans for scaling up actions as part of RESPAC - 2

Representation: Russian Federation, Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu. Agencies: UNDP³.

The records of Project Board Meetings show the Board as being active in its oversight of the project, with strong representation and participation of beneficiary countries and territories. The support of the Russian Federation acknowledged with appreciation. In addition, the ability to influence the direction of the project, through review and endorsement of the annual Workplan, was much appreciated by country representatives. This resulted in the PMU having a welcome level of flexibility and the ability to respond to requests for assistance from beneficiary countries. At the same time, it provided a forum for Russian Federation to raise any concerns about project delivery, notably in the Fifth meeting in early 2020.

The Board's endorsement of the NDMO Directors' Statement of Intent for COVID-19 (Annex F) at the Fifth meeting, showed that the Board provided a forum that participating countries felt able to use to express their collective interests.

5.2 Project Implementation

Adaptive management

The Project Board has been the key decision-making mechanism for adaptive management and has agreed to changes to project activities in the context of the approval of the annual work programme and budget. Changes have also been made to the Results Framework and indicators/targets.

In terms of Monitoring and Evaluation, a major event in the implementation of the project was conduct of the **midterm review** (MTR) in 2019. The MTR assessed the level of project implementation at that time and drew a number of conclusions and recommendations. In brief, the MTR found:

- The project design is soundly based, and highly relevant
- The project is well managed and delivered
- The project had implemented a considerable number of activities
- The RRF and associated planning documents were over-complex and included some inconsistencies in content and format

³ Full participant list not included in Minutes

- In part because of the above, there were instances where project reporting did not provide for straightforward tracking of project Outcomes and progress towards objectives
- A more concerted effort is required to encourage equal representation of women and men in project activities

Against this background the MTR recommended a no-cost extension for the project along with:

- Enhance reporting to address 'cumulative targets', and adequacy of progress
- Review and revise the RRF to 'make it fit for purpose as a management tool for achieving expected results'
- Prepare a Project Sustainability and Exit Strategy
- Adopt 'a more proactive approach to gender equality', including performance indicators, targets and reporting

UNDP developed a formal management response to the MTR (Annex B). An outcome of this was a revised RRF presented to, and adopted by, the Project Board at its 5th meeting in March 2020.

A major external event has been the COVID-19 pandemic throughout 2020 which has impacted the delivery of the project – largely through the effect of travel restrictions throughout the Pacific Islands region – preventing any in-country work by project staff. The PMU has, as for many project and programme activities in the region and globally, been forced to find other means of communication and modalities of project delivery.

Project has adapted well using internet-based communication applications (Zoom, Skype and the like). This has created specific challenges, along with opportunities. For example, the TE heard of that guidance on installation / maintenance of AWS – usually delivered through practical in-person demonstrations by PMU staff, has instead been delivered through remote communications (internet or satellite phone). While this provides less of a hands-on practical guidance, at the same times it builds capacity in-country by requiring local staff to step up and do the work themselves, a positive, if unplanned, benefit.

The 2020 mid-year report discussed COVID-19 impacts over the immediately preceding period and future projected affects, noting the immediate shock from C19 travel restrictions and national 'lockdowns' along with ongoing uncertainty for project delivery:

COVID-19 new normal has brought about an interface which has become increasingly complex, uncertain and interconnected. It has affected the modus operandi of project design, development, formulation and implementation across the PICs who often lack reliable and fast connectivity or even mobile phone access. The advent of COVID-19 has restricted mobility and altered human interaction with our stakeholders across PICs.

The overall effects are summarized (in the 2020 mid-year report) as shown in Annex C.

Actual stakeholder participation and partnership arrangements;

A record of actual stakeholder and partner participation in the project was provided in each annual report. The list of agencies and partners remained mostly constant throughout the project term although additional partners were added as the project developed. This is particularly evident for output 3 as this was implemented in the latter part of the project term. Table 5 below provides the partner list as presented in the 2019 Annual Report.

Table 5: Principal Partners in the Project (2019 Annual Report)			
Agencies	Output 1	Output 2	Output 3
National Agencies / institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 <p>And the four other Met Offices to a lesser extent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marshall Islands Disaster Management Office Emergency Management Cook Islands Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office Solomon Islands National Disaster Management Office Tuvalu Disaster Management Office <p>And all 10 other Disaster Management Offices to a lesser extent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samoa Chamber of Commerce Tuvalu Finance and Economic Development and Department of Environment <p>Through RESPAC/PFIP partnership, following agencies are now recipients of RESPAC funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) University of the South Pacific (USP) Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Global Giving, World Bank 	
External/ Donor Country Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Sciences (NIWA) Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Bureau of Meteorology, Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Union World Bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Munich Climate Insurance Initiative
UNDP Projects & UN Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Meteorological Organization (WMO) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (UNOCHA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDP Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP)

Specific mention is made of partnerships with the Russian Federation including involvement in the project board and trust fund development steering committee as well as with the technical agencies (for example ROSHYDROMET). [note different spellings]. Russian personnel also participated in the project as UN Volunteers.

Project Leverage of additional finance;

The project team has been able to leverage additional funding through design of project proposals for submission to donors. The resulting funds are being used to complement the project scope,

coverage and improve the greater functionality of the UNDP Pacific Office. As at June end 2020, the additional funding has summed to US\$26.22 million, including:

1. Japan Supplementary Budget funding for the North Pacific (FSM, Palau & RMI)-US\$22.5 million.
2. Japan COVID-19 Response (Pacific) -US\$1.6 million.
3. India ICLEWS- US\$1 million.
4. UNDP Core Funding (TRAC 1.1.3) -US\$800k (TC Harold-600k & Gita -200k).
5. Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT) -US\$320k.

Monitoring & Evaluation: design at entry, implementation, and overall assessment of M&E

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) provisions are set out in Part XII of the Prodoc: Monitoring Framework and Evaluation, which describes core M&E activities and the preparation of a detailed M&E plan⁴.

The M&E elements that have been most useful in project management/implementation have been:

- The Results and Resources Framework (RRF)⁵ ('Logical Framework Matrix'): The baselines, indicators and targets in the RRF have been routinely used to guide project planning and reporting
- The Annual Report (or Annual Review Report) to the Project board summarising achievements towards targets and providing the project narrative

The MTR recommended certain revisions to the RRF project objectives indicators and targets. At the same time a modified approach to annual reporting was proposed, to allow easier tracking of progress towards indicator targets over time. These changes have been taken up by the PMU, with a narrative description of the year's activities and challenges, accompanied by a detailed record of project activities in the RRF framework. These changes appear to have been satisfactory for the Board in its project oversight/governance role.

From an evaluation perspective, successive changes to the RRF and the style of reporting mean that it is not straightforward to retrospectively track project progress (as shown in the composite RRF: Annex D).

Risk Management

As part of the annual project reporting, the PMU prepared an annual update of project risks for the Board's consideration. These are summarised in Table 6 below.

Table 6: PMU risk log (annual project reports)	
Year /#	Risk
2017/1	Natural Disasters in the Region
2017/2	Lack of engagement and coordination among regional and national institutions
2017/3	
2017/4	Delays in Project Implementation.
2017/5	
2017/6	Unclear management and monitoring of the project between Pacific Office and UNDP Cos

⁴ The Prodoc notes that certain of the M&E products, including the M&E plan, are linked to ATLAS, and have not been sighted by the TE.

⁵ Equivalent to the 'Logical Framework Matrix' in the language of the Prodoc.

2017/7	Low level of awareness and priority to the issue of pre- disaster recovery planning at national level.
2017/8	Lack of clarity on Early Recovery Seed Fund
2018/i	Lack of prior scoping on equipment and staffing
2018/ii	Sustainability of training and lack of accreditation
2018/iii	Lack of post training follow up and country level initiatives
2018/iv	Mechanisms to support crowd funding
2020	COVID-19
2020	Natural Disaster
2020	Sustainability of training and lack of accreditation for Met staff
2020	Lack of prior scoping on equipment and staffing capacity needs
2020	Lack of follow-up and country level initiatives

In each case the PMU has developed a management response. In some instances this has involved adoption of modified practices within the PMU. For example, in relation to COVID-19, this has involved establishment of alternative methods of communication such as telecommuting of staff, use of internet-based applications such as Zoom teleconferencing, and active follow-up on activities through email, phone and Skype. Participating countries advised the TE that this had worked well (even to the extent of providing real-time assistance with AWS installation), but does not replace face-to-face communications.

In other cases, such as sustainability of training, the risk remains, and is subject to ongoing efforts to find regional solutions (e.g. Regional Training Centre).

The TE considers that there has been adequate monitoring and management of risks under the project.

5.3 Project Results

5.3.1 Assessment against project indicators

The primary measure of project results is the level of achievement against project indicators and targets in the Results and Resources Framework (RRF). The RRF was revised for the 2020 reporting year, and the level of achievement (as reported by the PMU) summarised in Table 7. A full listing of annual reporting is attached as Annex D; this shows the changes in indicators/targets compared to those set out in the Prodoc, and also illustrates the greater level of reporting detail /elaboration as the project progressed. The report of the March 2020 meeting of the Project Board stated, in relation to the RRF, that 'the targets which have not been achieved in 2019 or in previous years are set as targets for 2020 where relevant'. In view of this, the status indicated in Table 7 is represents the TE's assessment of cumulative achievement over the term of the project, based on project reports and stakeholder interviews.

Table 7: Achievement of indicator targets	
Annual Targets	Output Indicator Results
1.0: Strengthened gender-sensitized early warning and climate monitoring capacity in selected PICs	
NMS-sector working group established	Status: On track
Data sharing agreement -signed	Status: On track
Sector specific climate product disseminated and shared EFL & FSC	Status: On track
Tourism Monthly Climate Outlook developed.	Status: On track
Sector plans integrate climate risk Fiji - (Tourism/ Energy)	Status: On track
User evaluation conducted (EFL/FSC)	Status: On track
Lesson learned forum conducted	Status: Achieved
At least 30% women participants	Status: Achieved.
Guides to climate services enhanced.	Status: On track
Guidelines on sector level data collection provided (Aviation/Energy/Agriculture/health)	Status: On track
Met officers from nine countries (Cook, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, SOI, PNG, Vanuatu, Niue, Tuvalu) with improved CLEWS and monitoring capacity (disaggregated by gender)	Status: On track
Regional Training Center established and operational (PMU/USP)	Status: On track
Financing mechanism for RTC established	Status: On track
Countries with newly installed AWS and existing AWS repaired, operational and reporting.	Status: On track
Output 2.0: Preparedness and planning mechanisms and tools to manage disaster recovery processes strengthened at regional, national and local level.	
Recovery activities with PHT	Status: Achieved.
National assessments of post disaster planning and programming approaches (Vanuatu PDNA Training)	Status: Achieved
Countries using tools for recovery monitoring/implementation (Fiji -CPP & Vanuatu PDNA training)	Status: On track
Countries with community consultation mechanisms	Status: On track
Country with Initial Damage Assessment tool modified to support PDNA, and available	Status: On track
Case study on recovery	Status: On track
Knowledge exchange tour	Status: On track
National meeting to establish recovery policy, structure and processes	Status: On track
Gender sensitive recover policy, structure and processes established	Status: On track
Historical loss databases supported	Status: On track
Baseline dataset strengthened in selected PICs	Status: On track
National-subnational recovery mechanisms established	Status: On track
Recovery assessment tools streamlined to the Pacific context	Status: Achieved
Regional experts that have improved capacity in Post Disaster Recovery as part of South to South Cooperation (male, female)	Status: Achieved
Country preparedness packages established	Status: On track
Countries with coordinated recovery processes in progress	Status: On track

Affected families supported by recovery initiatives implemented in coordination with Governments, NGOs and/or civil society organizations (disaggregated by country, sex and age)	Status: On track
Additional funds mobilized for recovery in view of the seed funding purpose of the TRAC 1.1.3 mechanism	Status: On track
3.0: Increased use of financial instruments to manage and share disaster related risk and fund post disaster recovery efforts	
Innovative climate related insurance-based solutions designed and shared with the Insurance Industry (Parametric insurance)	Status: On track
SME and sector specific disaster risk products identified and developed (SME – Dairy, Copra, Rice; Sector-fisheries)	Status: On track
Early recovery fund guidelines produced (PERF)	Status: Completed
Early recovery fund operational (PERF)	Status: Achieved and operational - Implementation ongoing
Countries that have access to PERF (Kiribati, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Fiji, SOI, etc.)	Status: Achieved and operational - Implementation ongoing
Recovery project under implementation	Status: [Achieved]
Pacific recovery case studies conducted (Vanuatu/ Fiji)	Status: [Achieved]

It is notable that all targets have been 'achieved' or are 'on track'. Discussion with stakeholders did not reveal any contrary view regarding the levels of achievement.

Reporting results against regional UNDP Pacific Objectives

The project has contributed to UNDP outcomes under the Sub-Regional Programme Document (SRDP) for the Pacific Islands Countries and Territories (2018-2022) as summarised in Table 8.

Table 8: Reporting against UNDP subregional programme document (SRDP)		
Regional priority: Pacific people, societies, economies, cultures and natural environments are resilient to changing conditions and extreme events resulting from climate change, climate variability and geological processes, to enhance the well-being of the people and to promote their sustainable development (<i>Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP)</i>) Sustainable development goals (SDGs) 7, 13, 14, 15		
United Nations outcome 1 involving UNDP: 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.		
Strategic plan outcome 5. Countries are able to reduce the likelihood of conflict and lower the risk of natural disasters, including from climate change.		
United Nations Pacific strategy outcome indicators, baselines, targets	Indicative country programme outputs (including indicators, baselines, targets)	RESPAC Contribution to Outcomes
Indicator: Number of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) whose direct disaster economic loss in relation to regional gross domestic product, including disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, has declined, based on the latest available data Baseline: 0 Target: 8	Output 1.1. Scaled-up action on climate change adaptation and mitigation across sectors which is funded and implemented. Indicative indicator 1.1.2. Number of UNDP project beneficiaries, disaggregated by sex, with reduced vulnerability or increased resilience (Green Climate Fund Board indicator) Baseline (2017): 210,000 (male); 190,000 (female) Target: 300,000 (male); 300,000 (female) Source: Project reports, evaluations	The project has specifically targeted reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience in Pacific island countries and territories in the areas of: - early warning in relation to climate and climate change - disaster preparedness and response - financial risk mitigation 4,300 families benefited by initiatives for livelihoods recovery implemented in Solomon Islands, Fiji and Tonga 6,500 affected families [have been] supported by recovery initiatives implemented in coordination with Governments, NGOs and/or civil society organizations
	Output 1.2: Effective risk-informed development plans, disaster preparedness	The project has supported the development of risk-informed products including:

	<p>and recovery mechanisms in place at the national, sector and subnational levels</p> <p>Indicative indicator 1.2.1. Number of newly endorsed development policies and plans at the national, sector and subnational levels that mainstream climate and disaster risks Baseline (2017): 0 Target: At least 28 at national level, including sectoral; 140 at subnational level Source/frequency: Development policy and plans; national disaster risk management and climate change policies and plans (annual)</p> <p>Indicative indicator 1.2.2. Number of countries with formalized recovery preparedness mechanisms in place Baseline (2017): 2 Target: 10 Source/frequency: Post-disaster needs assessments, disaster recovery framework, government policy documents (ad hoc)</p>	<p>- Country preparedness Packages (CPPS) for 2 countries - Post-disaster needs assessments (PDNAs) for 2 countries - Pacific Early Recovery Fund (PERF) operational in 3 countries (Vanuatu, Fiji, Togo) - multiple additional products at national and sub-national level.</p>
<p>Regional priority: Sustainable development that combines economic, social and cultural development in ways that improve livelihoods and well-being and use the environment sustainably (FRDP) SDGs: 1, 5, 8, 10, 17</p>		
<p>United Nations outcome 3 involving UNDP: By 2022, people in the Pacific, in particular youth, women and vulnerable groups, benefit from inclusive and sustainable economic development that creates decent jobs, reduces multidimensional poverty and inequalities, and promotes economic empowerment.</p>		
<p>Strategic plan outcome 1. Growth and development are inclusive and sustainable, incorporating productive capacities that create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded.</p>		
<p>Indicator: Number of PICTs in which the percentage of the population with access to formal financial services has increased, based on the latest available data Baseline (2017): 0 Target: 5</p>	<p>Output 3.3. National financial inclusion policies and strategies in place and implemented to expand access to financial services for rural and low-income women and youth.</p> <p>Indicative indicator 3.3.2. Number of women and men enrolled in formal financial services, disaggregated by locality Baseline (2016): 478,484 male; 339,809 female Target: 678,484 male; 678,484 female Source/frequency: Project reports (annual); partner surveys (quarterly).</p>	<p>Project has supported development and roll-out of micro-bundled insurance in 3 countries.</p>

5.3.2 Relevance, Effectiveness, and Efficiency

Relevance

To what extent was the project in line with the national development priorities, the country programme's outputs and outcomes, the UNDP Strategic Plan and the SDGs?

The project design drew extensively on Global and Pacific regional strategies to guide its objectives and activities. In this respect, the project was 'anchored with the UNDP Global 5-10-50 Partnership Framework for Risk Informed Development'. Within this framework, the project was designed to contribute to:

- Pathway 3 – Early Warning and Preparedness, and
- Pathway 4 – Resilient recovery

At the programmatic level the project was linked directly with the UNDP Regional Programme Document (RPD) for Asia Pacific 2014-2017 through:

- Outcome 3 - *Countries are able to reduce the likelihood of conflict and lower the risk of natural events, including those resulting from climate change.*

The project design also drew on UNDP sub-regional and national programme frameworks, and a range of Pacific regional strategies, including:

- *Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy (PIMS) 2012 – 2021*
- *The Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC) 2006-2015 (subsequently updated)*
- *Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action (RFA) 2005 – 2015 (subsequently updated)*

The project remains well aligned with the updated UNDP strategy documents, notably the sub-regional program document (SRDP) for the Pacific island countries and territories (2018 to 2022), as well as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

To what extent does the project contribute to the theory of change for the relevant country programme outcome?

The SRDP for the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (2018 – 2022) theory of change is implicit in its stated rationale. In brief, this is based on:

- The Pacific as a region experiences a combination of factors (notably geographic isolation, ecological fragility, limited resources, narrow economic base) making it vulnerable to natural disasters and related shocks. Hardship and vulnerability are on the rise in the region.
- The region is among the most vulnerable in the world to climate change (including sea-level rise), extreme weather and disasters.
- For most countries in the region sectoral plans (where they exist) are not well resourced or implemented
- The review of the previous SRDP recommended that UNDP continue to promote the integration of climate change and disaster risk management in the region

The current project contributes directly in these priority areas, especially climate information and early warning, and disaster planning and response preparedness.

To what extent were lessons learned from other relevant projects considered in the project's design?

The project design drew on UNDP's extensive record of engagement across the Pacific Islands region in the fields of early warning systems, disaster recovery and climate change. The project design paid particular attention to lessons learned through the Pacific Risk Resilience Programme (PRRP). The project also aligned with other interventions that were in place regionally and at national level in Samoa and PNG.

To what extent were perspectives of those who could affect the outcomes, and those who could contribute information or other resources to the attainment of stated results, taken into account during the project design processes?

Addressed under section 5.1 – stakeholder engagement.

To what extent does the project contribute to gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights-based approach?

Addressed under section 5.3.5 – gender equality and women’s empowerment, and 5.3.6 – cross-cutting issues.

To what extent has the project been appropriately responsive to political, legal, economic, institutional, etc., changes in the country [region]?

The project has been strongly responsive to the needs of participating countries, both in terms of overall governance and planning, and in its ability to apply resources directly in response to disaster events.

Overall, the project as designed and implemented remains strongly relevant to the region and participating countries and territories.

Effectiveness

To what extent did the project contribute to the country programme outcomes and outputs, the SDGs, the UNDP Strategic Plan and national development priorities?

The project contributed to key regional and national outcomes as below. The detail of the activities and outcomes are provided in the following sections, as well as the Annexes (where relevant):

- SDGs⁶:
 - Resilience to extreme events resulting from climate change, climate variability and geological processes: SDGs 7, 13, 14, and 15
 - Economic, social and cultural development, and environmental sustainability: SDGs 1, 5, 8, 10, and 17
- UNDP SRDP:
 - SRDP Output 1.1 (abridged) – scaled-up actions on climate change: project beneficiaries with reduced vulnerability and increased resilience
 - SRDP Output 1.2 (abridged) – effective risk-informed development plans, disaster preparedness and recovery mechanisms in place: development plans in place, formalized recovery preparedness mechanisms, post-disaster needs assessments, disaster recovery frameworks, government policy documents.
- Country programmes and national priorities: Extensive programme of national activities as elaborated in later sections and Annex E.

To what extent were the project outputs achieved?

The project has been implemented across three Output areas addressing: climate monitoring / early warning systems, preparedness and tools for managing disaster recovery processes, and increased use of financial instruments.

⁶ The SDGs are introduced into the project intervention framework through the SRDP for Pacific Island countries

Progress towards the project indicators and targets is presented in Table 7. Further information on project delivery across the three Outputs is summarised in tables 9, 10, and 11 below, respectively. Blue shading shows activities involving South-South Cooperation (SSC).

Table 9: Output 1 – project activities	
Strengthened Gender Sensitive Early Warning Systems and Climate Monitoring Capacity in [selected] PICS	
Source of information	
MTR	Two workshops on climate observation and reporting conducted in Fiji in 2018
	1 data sharing agreement signed between Vanuatu Ministry of Health and meteorology Department
	one 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 organisations, 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 organized by JICA and WMO
	Three representatives from Kiribati, Fiji, and Tonga attended nine month graduate diploma training in meteorology at BOM in Australia
	Vanuatu was supported with the digitalization of historical data from observing networks to CLiDE database. Fiji and PNG were also supported.
	Fiji Met Services conducted two 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 installed in PNG. Space for 14 AWS provided to Fiji after damage caused by tropical cyclone Winston in early 2018
	Training of 15 Fiji met services technicians conducted by NIWA
2020 March Board (note that some entries – in italics -are for ‘planned’ activities)	Climate data interface improved through assessment of gaps and collaboration with external partners including SPREP, SPC, WB, ADB, JICA, NIWA, BOM and KOICA;
	Two male staff from Fiji Met Office completed Graduate Diploma in Meteorology from Australia Bureau of Meteorology (BOM). So far RESPAC has supported five Met Officers from three countries including Fiji (3), Kiribati (1) and Tonga (1) for training at BOM. Mr. Bhan also noted the strict intake criteria for BOM enrollment which hinders wide participation of member countries;
	Collaborated with WMO Climate Resilient and Early Warning Project (CREWS) and supported participation of Disaster Managers from Fiji, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Vanuatu attended Impact Based Forecasting Training in the Solomon Islands.
	Training attachment at the Fiji Met Services for 8 Met staff from four countries including Kiribati (3), Nauru (1), Solomon (2) and Vanuatu (2). <i>A similar activity is planned for the Phase 2 design.</i>
	As part of South-South Cooperation, Mr. Atish Kumar, Senior Technical Officer at the Fiji Met Services trained Vanuatu Met staff with CLiDE and data digitization;
	In collaboration with JICA supported 7 Met officers from 4 countries including Kiribati (3), Nauru (1), Solomon (2) and Vanuatu (1) for a week-long Himawari Satellite Training;
	Supported 3 Met staff from two countries including Fiji (2) and Solomon (1) to attend Quality Management Systems training in NZ and Aust respectively;
	<i>AWS installation for Cook Islands at the Suwarrow and Nasau stations is planned for 2020;</i>

	Supported Fiji Met Services with the installation of 4 AWOS at the Nadi International Airport. These AWOS was initially procured by the Fijian Government;
	<i>For Kiribati, 5 sites (mainly rural airports) have been identified to receive AWOS installations (Butaritari, Nikunao, Tabiteua, Kanton and Phoenix);</i>
	<i>For Nauru, AWS will be installed at the Top Site;</i>
	<i>For Niue, the I-Star system at the Atofi International airport will be repaired;</i>
	For Papua New Guinea, 2 AWS systems were installed at Jackson International Airport and Chimbu. 6 AWOS systems at domestic airports were contracted. Aiyura NARI AWS – Goroka, Misima AWS - Milne Bay, Siassi AWS - Por/Umboi Island, Morobe, Tambul HAES AWS - Mt Hagen;
	<i>For Solomon Islands, 5 AWS will be installed at Agriculture Research Stations and 1 at the Henderson International Airport;</i>
	<i>For Tokelau, 2 AWS will be installed at Fakaofu and Atafu stations;</i>
	<i>For Tuvalu, 3 AWS will be installed at Nanumaga, Vaitupu and Nukulaelae stations;</i>
	<i>For Vanuatu, 1 AWS will be installed at Linua Airport on Loh Island in the Torba Province;</i>
	Funded participation of Mr. Bipendra Prakash from Fiji Met Service to attend the Regional Climate Outlook Forum (RCOF) in Noumea. RESPAC in collaboration with SPREP has supported the RCOF from 2016-2019.
	Supported the Fiji and Vanuatu National Climate Outlook Forum (NCOF). Vanuatu has conducted 2 NCOF and both supported by RESPAC;
	The Pacific Meteorology Council (PMC) has endorsed the Regional Training Center (RTC) Feasibility Study findings;
	RESPAC is developing a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with the University of the South Pacific to elaborate the set up of the RTC;

Table 10: Output 2 – project activities	
Preparedness and Planning Mechanisms and Tools to Manage Disaster Recovery Processes Strengthened at Regional, National and Local Level	
Source of information	
MTR	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 process is in Federated states of Micronesia and Palau in 2018
	Meeting to establish recovery policy structure and process is held in FSM and brought together representatives of the community and government from all four 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 and DRF Tonga and Cook Islands 2017 and Vanuatu 2018
	country preparedness package (CPP) for Cook Islands and RMI completed. CPP for Tuvalu finalized 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 Solomon Islands and Tonga after tropical cyclone Gita in Tonga in 2018
2020 March Board Report (note that some entries – in italics -are for ‘planned’ activities)	National Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and Disaster Recovery Framework (DRF) trainings were conducted for Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. In total two trainings have been conducted in Solomon Islands (1) and Vanuatu (1).
	There were no training for Early Recovery (ER), Regional PDNA/DRF as well as Training of Trainers (ToT) conducted in 2019. However, so far two ER trainings have been conducted in Palau and FSM respectively and one regional PDN/DRF training and ToT;
	There was no support for Country Preparedness Packages (CPP). However, RESPAC has to date supported CPP for RMI and Cook Islands;
	<i>The ongoing collaboration with UNOCHA for early recovery network and SPC to upgrade existing Disaster Risk management Database in the Pacific comprising of and linking to multiple DRM and CC related databases. As well as on the refining and adapting of PDNA/DRF training across the region. The RESPAC Team can mobilise within 48 hrs after a request and can rely on the PHT and SPC for strengthening the Team when required.</i>

Table 11: Output 3 – project activities	
Increased use of Financial Instruments to Manage and Share Disaster Related Risk and Fund Post Disaster Recovery Efforts	
Source of information	
MTR	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 12500 sugar cane 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 microinsurance with employers and employees organized by FijiCare insurance limited in Fiji 2018
2020 March Board (note that some entries – in italics -are for ‘planned’ activities)	In collaboration with Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP) signed up 46 and 50 members of the Fiji Meat Industry Association and Tavua Market Vendors Association respectively for bundled micro insurance;
	Supported PFIP on insurance demand study and business plans for the fisheries sector. The Fisheries Insurance Report was finalized and shared with the Fiji Ministry of Fisheries;
	Established the Pacific Early Recovery Fund (PERF);
	Collaborated with Vanuatu Government Department of Strategic Planning, Policy and Aid Co-ordination (DSPPAC), and allocated USD 211,000 to implement the Ambae Volcano recovery plan;
	<i>Developing the crowdfunding mechanism to sustain PERF</i>

What factors have contributed to achieving or not achieving intended regional programme outputs and outcomes?

What factors contributed to effectiveness or ineffectiveness?

The factors contributing to effectiveness and achievement of outputs/outcomes relate primarily to the functioning of the PMU, its linkages with UNDP and other UN agencies, and the inclusive and flexible governance structure. In summary:

- The institutional hosting arrangement, with the project embedded in the UNDP structure, proved for access to a breadth of existing expertise and partnerships in the relevant fields.
- The inclusive and flexible governance structure for the project, chaired by the key donor, proved to be a significant asset, allowing the project to respond directly to circumstances and requests from participating countries.
- The level of engagement by participating countries was notable; being a key element of successful delivery.
- The PMU once fully staffed, provided a capable and effective corps of expertise, and contributed to the high level of responsiveness of the project. The project continued effectively in the face of set-backs including the COVID-19 pandemic.

In which areas does the project have the greatest achievements? Why and what have been the supporting factors? How can the project build on or expand these achievements?

The project has contributed key outputs in each of the three component areas:

1. Support for climate observation and data systems; largely through the procurement and installation of automatic weather stations.
2. Support for disaster preparedness, and the implementation of early response to disaster events through mobilization of qualified personnel and through the development of the Pacific Early Recovery Fund (PERF)
3. Development of financial mechanisms included bundled insurance products, and innovative 'crowd-funding' concepts for attracting resources for disaster response and recovery.

The project has also been successful in leveraging additional funding to support the sector (\$US 26.2M as recorded in section 5.2).

These achievements have been underpinned by the factors noted above, along with:

- A strong contribution towards capacity – building within participating countries
- A commitment to supporting South-South cooperation through exchanges of personnel and learning

These same factors provide a pathway for continuing to build on current achievements through upscaling the approach based on; continued country participation in setting priorities, a flexible and responsive approach, openness to different modalities and new technologies, and continuity of resources.

In which areas does the project have the fewest achievements? What have been the constraining factors and why? How can or could they be overcome?

There have been delays in the project in certain areas, notably in relation to procurement of equipment. These, along with slow early recruitment in some fields, meant that less was done than potentially possible in relation to some activities. On the issue of procurement, this is an area where alternative options could be trialed, especially in relation to ensuring suppliers are familiar with, and have a presence in the Pacific region, and equipment is fit for purpose in Pacific operating environments.

There have been instances where key elements of the project were reliant on outside agencies, an example being the internet-based set-up of a crowd-funding facility. The absence of this element limited the potential effectiveness of this concept, though innovative with strong potential. The TE understands that this can be addressed through intra-UNDP management arrangements.

The M&E responsiveness of the project has not been a particular strength. The Mid-term Review noted need for improvements in this area, both for project reporting, and delivery of specific tasks in the M&E plan.

What, if any, alternative strategies would have been more effective in achieving the project's objectives?

To address the issues noted above, some priority areas are:

- Streamlining procurement processes and ensuring fitness for purpose of equipment
- Accelerating staff recruitment during the start-up phase
- Developing stronger links into M&E systems within UNDP to support such things as; focusing activities on project outcomes, monitoring against the results framework, reporting against objectives, and delivering on M&E plans and priorities.

Are the projects objectives and outputs clear, practical and feasible within its frame?

Following on from the above the TE concurs with the MTR that the results framework is over complex and focusses on detailed activities at the expense of overall project direction. This contributed to a lack of clarity in reporting against objectives; though this improved significantly through adoption of the MTR recommendations in this area.

Efficiency

To what extent was the project management structure as outlined in the project document efficient in generating the expected results?

The management structure comprises the governance structure described above, the key elements of which are the Project Board and the embedding of the PMU into the UNDP Fiji office. The Project Board has provided a forum for dialogue between the donor, beneficiaries, and UNDP, serviced by the PMU. This arrangement has provided for all parties to have direct input into annual project planning (including budgeting) and reporting. In this way it has regularly provided direction to the project in relation to project priorities, activities and results.

To what extent have the UNDP project implementation strategy and execution been efficient and cost-effective?

To what extent has there been an economical use of financial and human resources? Have resources (funds, human resources, time, expertise, etc.) been allocated strategically to achieve outcomes?

To what extent have resources been used efficiently? Have activities supporting the strategy been cost-effective?

The UNDP / PMU modality requires alignment of all project activities with UN terms and conditions, notably for staff/employment, and procurement systems. This means that there is little flexibility available to the PMU about the costs structures for staff. Similarly, the procurement procedures are aligned with UNDP global practice. While these factors have caused some difficulties, especially in relation to procurement (see below), the project has been cost-effective within these constraints.

To what extent have project funds and activities been delivered in a timely manner?

In terms of the overall rate of spending, Table 12 shows that expenditure was slow during the first years of the project, contributing to the decision for a no-cost extension into 2020. During this final year the rate of expenditure has increased, with a large proportion of this involving procurement of equipment. In the first six months of 2020 expenditure was over USD1.8m; approximately 24% of the total project budget. By the end of June 2020 expenditure represented 91% of the total project budget.

Table 12: Finance summary to June 2020							
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (to mid-year)	Total Actual (to mid-2020)	Total Budget (USD)
Output 1	55,014	628,088	21,091	821,806	910,516	3,336,515	3,166,765
Output 2	8,380	572,672	449,741	227,008	551,896	1,809,696	1,146,765
Output 3	1,791	217,366	247,859	339,838	210,218	1,017,072	1,556,765
Output 4	79,063	108,639	363,717	-15,974	154,700	690,145	1,629,705
TOTAL	244,248	1,526,765	1,882,408	1,372,678	1,827,330	6,853,428	7,500,000
% of total						91%	100%

Figures are round to nearest dollar; (figures 2016-19 from 2019 annual report; 2020 figures from 2020 Mid-year progress report)

Table 12 shows that Outputs 1 and 2 appear to be overspent in relation to the original budget allocation, though this may have been agreed as part of the 2020 annual work plan and budget.

An issue raised in Board reports, and touched on in stakeholder discussions, is the distribution of project effort / resources across the participating countries and territories. There is a sense in which participating countries and territories wish to see the resources 'shared around' and are interested in the overall allocation and openness about how decisions are made in this area. The PMU has highlighted that the resources are not tagged to specific country allocations, and has provided guidance on the processes used. Annex E provides a compendium of activities by country / territory, drawn from annual project reports.

A significant source of delay in the project has been the protracted process for procurement of equipment, in particular AWS. In 2019, the PMU reported that 'we have foregone delivery of Automated Weather Stations for 0.6M as we felt that the quality of equipment would not be outlast the harsh Pacific climate circumstances and exposure to sea water.' The underlying cause of this

was a procurement process which appeared to prioritise low price over fitness for purpose. As the PMU put it; ‘we find quality and customer satisfaction in the long run more important’. As a result of this the procurement process was repeated, with delivery of AWS in 2020.

As a sequel to this, the COVID -19 pandemic has caused further delays in delivery of equipment, particularly in relation to shipping to final country / outer island destinations for deployment. In order to provide for proper management of final delivery and installation, a further period of project delivery into early 2021 was approved to ensure that the installations are completed and the investments to date are fully effective.

To what extent do the M&E systems utilized by UNDP ensure effective and efficient project management?

The project design includes M&E provisions relating to project delivery which were adopted by the PMU as the Project M&E Plan. The provisions include, amongst other things, a variety of references to UNDP internal processes and operating procedures; examples are:

- The detailed M&E plan will be elaborated upon approval of the project annual work plan in ATLAS and will follow procedures established in the UNDP program Operation Policies and Procedures (POPP)
- A Monitoring Schedule Plan shall be adopted in Atlas and updated to track key management actions/events
- As a minimum requirement the Annual Review Report shall consist of the Atlas standard format for the QPR [Quarterly Progress Report] covering the whole year

The TE has not sighted any of the ATLAS content and reports, but assumes they have been completed in line with UNDP operating procedures. If so, it appears that the PMU annual reports to the Project Board follow a different format, based on extensive project narrative by output/activity and financial reporting.

In this respect, it seems that while embedded in UNDP, the PMU has also to some extent stood aside from the agency M&E processes, placing priority on reporting through the project governance structure – the Project Board - on matters relating to planning, budget management and reporting.

A further issue, reported by the PMU in 2017, was ‘unclear management and monitoring of the project between Pacific Office and UNDP Country Offices’; this is understood to have been resolved at the time.

Taken overall, efficiency can be viewed in terms of the achievements, in relation to the cost of delivering them (cost effectiveness), as well as the operation of the project governance and administrative arrangements. The TE considers that the project has been delivered efficiently, especially in the context of the significant changes in the operating environment imposed by COVID-19.

5.3.3 Sustainability

Are there any financial risks that may jeopardize the sustainability of project outputs?

To what extent will financial and economic resources be available to sustain the benefits achieved by the project?

Sustainability may take different forms in relation to different aspects of the project. For example, under Component 1, some aspects (e.g. maintenance of equipment) may be addressed through national capacity and national budgets, while an initiative such as the RTC involves mobilisation of funding and a long-term business model (potentially including aspects of cost-recovery). The extent to which such resources are available remains unresolved as at the TE.

The overall thrust of the project is to address the vulnerability, and enhance resilience of Pacific SIDS; these are issues which cannot be ‘fixed’ once and for all by a single project, but require ongoing support. As one stakeholder put it, consideration of long-term sustainability ‘needs to be taken with a measure of reality; some things will just never be funded through national budgets...’

Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project outputs and the project’s contributions to country programme outputs and outcomes?

To what extent do stakeholders support the project’s long-term objectives?

National stakeholders strongly supported the project objectives, and highlighted the concept of extending the support provided through RESPAC/UNDP, either as a follow up to the current project (recognising the productive relationship developed with the Russian Federation) or through some other mechanism. The March 2020 Board meeting record shows that ‘Board members supported the scaling up of the RESPAC project’ and participating countries and territories were invited to send (to UNDP) ‘detailed country needs / plans for scaling up actions as part of RESPAC – 2’.

Do the legal frameworks, policies and governance structures and processes within which the project operates pose risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project benefits?

None identified.

To what extent did UNDP actions pose an environmental threat to the sustainability of project outputs?

None identified.

What is the risk that the level of stakeholders’ ownership will be sufficient to allow for the project benefits to be sustained?

To what extent do UNDP interventions have well-designed and well-planned exit strategies? What could be done to strengthen exit strategies and sustain?

Much of the project work is in partnership with participating country agencies, which may take an ongoing role in both maintaining equipment and implementing plans and procedures. However this can only be carried out within national budget constraints, and ongoing agency support will be needed.

The MTR recommended that 'UNDP prepare the Project Sustainability and Exit Strategy' and submit it for Board consideration. The representative of the Russian Federation to the March 2020 Board meeting highlighted the donor's interest in this document for presentation to the TFD Steering Committee, however the TE understands that the Strategy yet to be prepared, due to competing priorities within the PMU.

5.3.4 Country ownership

Country ownership is incorporated into the project design through alignment with relevant project documents and priorities. In terms of implementation, national ownership is manifest through participation in the Project Board (governance) and directly in project activities (implementation).

5.3.5 Gender equality and women's empowerment

To what extent have gender equality and the empowerment of women been addressed in the design, implementation and monitoring of the project?

The MTR made observations about the level of inclusion of gender aspects into the project design as well as the consistency of reporting, and reported levels of participation of women and men in project activities. The MTR made a specific recommendation on the issue:

'adopt a more pro-active approach to gender equality, including setting gender equality targets and performance indicators, and targets on the RRF, and mandatory numeric and narrative reporting of results in the annual progress reports'

The PMU in its 'Management response' focused on the issue of representation in project activities such as workshops, for which gender disaggregated data (and in some cases percentage targets) is specified in indicator targets which the project reports against. The PMU makes the valid point that national representation is beyond the control of the project, being determined by participating countries and territories (and agencies).

To what extent has the project promoted positive changes in gender equality and the empowerment of women? Were there any unintended effects?

The project design focuses on a **gender-sensitive** approach to practice and activities under the project, such as disaster preparedness and response. To the extent that the TE has viewed the documentation (e.g. CPP's and PDNAs) there is evidence that the circumstances of women (as well as youth and other vulnerable groups) are taken into account in project implementation. However the extent of the project's systematic approach to this issue is not clear in its reporting.

Is the gender marker data assigned to this project representative of reality?

The RRF includes a requirement for reporting gender-disaggregated data in relation to certain indicators. The project reporting includes this data where required (listed below)

Output 1.1 % of women participating in the lessons learned forum 53 (16 females & 37 males)

Output 2 .2 improved capacity: 46 (34 males and 12 females)

In the example from Output 1.1, a target of 30% women participants was set in the RRF and achieved in this one-off forum.

Elsewhere the project reporting provided disaggregated data on project beneficiaries. For example, in relation to PERF, the beneficiaries are listed by country total (119,297) and gender (male 59,312; female 59,982). In this case the figures appear to have been estimated, perhaps from broader population data (refer Table 15).

Overall, the level and quality of reporting gender participation has increased since the adoption of the MTR recommendation relating to the RRF.

5.3.6 Cross-cutting issues

Human rights

To what extent have poor, indigenous and physically challenged, women and other disadvantaged and marginalized groups benefited from the work of UNDP in the country?

To what extent do mechanisms, procedures and policies exist to allow primary stakeholders to carry forward the results attained on gender equality, empowerment of women, human rights and human development?

The project incorporates some commitments relating to empowerment and participation of women (discussed above) but otherwise has little specific reference to human rights. However the design does refer to an array of multilateral agreements that do incorporate these perspectives. For example the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 includes amongst its Guiding Principles:

(c) Managing the risk of disasters is aimed at protecting persons and their property, health, livelihoods and productive assets, as well as cultural and environmental assets, while promoting and protecting all human rights, including the right to development;

(d) Disaster risk reduction requires an all-of-society engagement and partnership. It also requires empowerment and inclusive, accessible and non discriminatory participation, paying special attention to people disproportionately affected by disasters, especially the poorest. A gender, age, disability and cultural perspective should be integrated in all policies and practices, and women and youth leadership should be promoted. In this context, special attention should be paid to the improvement of organized voluntary work of citizens;

These approaches are implicit in the implementation of DRR and related response and recovery activities at national level (including preparedness plans).

Poverty alleviation

Poverty alleviation is addressed to some extent through Output 2, in particular through targeting resilience in relation to people, households and key subsistence sectors such as agriculture.

Capacity development

Much of the project effort has gone towards direct training using a range of modalities (in-country or regional training workshops, experiential learning etc). In addition, a key initiative under the project has been making progress on the concept of a Pacific Regional Training Centre offering courses across the meteorology and hydrology sectors.

Effort has been made under M&E banner to assess the effectiveness of specific capacity building activities through post workshop feedback forms and the like. Analyses from two of these (in Vanuatu and Palau) are summarised in Table 13.

Table 13: Training assessment ratings (2020)		
Issue	Ratings	
	Vanuatu PDNA & DRF training Feb 2020	Palau PDNA & DRF training Feb 2020
No of responses	29	25
Quality of training	28 assigned highest rating (96%)	24 assigned highest rating (96%)
Training helped Understanding	All rated the training as helping 'much' or 'very much'	23 of 25 rated the training as helping 'much' or 'very much'
Selected Participant quotes		
What was most useful?	<i>"Differentiating between damage and loss, different categories of population in a disaster scenario and identifying the various impacts to of disaster "</i>	<i>"Lecturing and hands on experience from the facilitators. Emphasis on time management. Participation & group sharing/plus presentation."</i>
What was least useful	<i>"All useful. The number crunching and data analysis part could have been in more detail and perhaps a side session for the statisticians and finance p"</i>	<i>"More time is needed for the exercise. Please consider table top and full scale where we can go on site to do assessment with assistance of the expert"</i>

Capacity development is a key area of interest for participating countries, being a critical element of building resilience and embedding risk reduction principles and approaches into mainstream government planning. Pacific Island countries face particular challenges in this area, particularly due to small populations and frequent turnover of staff.

The project has recognised this as a key area, but has not developed tools to track capacity changes over the medium term.

South-South Cooperation

Opportunities for South – South cooperation have been supported under the project where feasible. This has taken the form of supporting travel for national experts to travel to other participating countries to provide support and peer to peer learning. Examples of South-South cooperation are highlighted in Tables 9-11 above (blue shading).

Project communications and visibility

In the later years of the project additional focus has been applied to project communications and visibility for the donor and implementing partners. This has been highly successful in garnering press coverage and an enhanced web presence, including social media. Examples of press and social media coverage have been included in the 2019 Annual Report.

5.3.7 Progress to impact.

The project operates across a variety of modes ranging from systemic issues such as climate data through to preparedness and planning, and in some cases provided direct assistance in post disaster situations. For all these activities there is a connection (as expressed in the Theory of Change) between the activities and project impacts, in the form of benefits to people and communities. For many of these activities, the impact can only be identified and potentially measured in the long term.

At the same time the project has been able to mobilize resources and personnel to address the aftermath of disasters, with direct positive impacts for the communities concerned. These impacts are, in principle, able to be identified in the short term. RESPAC project reporting does this to some extent, for example reporting that:

- 4,300 families benefited by initiatives for livelihoods recovery implemented in Solomon Islands, Fiji and Tonga
- 6,500 affected families [have been] supported by recovery initiatives implemented in coordination with Governments, NGOs and/or civil society organizations
- 119,297 beneficiaries of PERF in six countries (Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu) as in Table 15:

Table 15: PERF beneficiaries by country and gender				
Country	Intervention	Beneficiaries Total	Male	Female
Fiji	TC Harold	100,000	50,000	50,000
Kiribati	TC Tino/TC Sarai	52	26	26
Solomon Islands	TC Harold	2,000	1,000	1,000
Tonga	TC Harold	4,945	2,486	2,459
Tuvalu	TC Tino/TC Sarai	1,300	800	500
Vanuatu	Ambae Volcano	11,000	5,000	6,000
	TC Harold	51,087	25,000	26,078
Total		119,297	59,312	59,985

6 Summary of Main Findings

A short summary is provided below of the main findings in relation to each of the relevant DAC criteria.

Relevance:

The project as designed and implemented remains strongly relevant to the region and participating countries and territories, as well as key UN strategies (UN SRDP and UNDAF).

Effectiveness:

The primary measure of project effectiveness is in the achievement of project indicators and targets. In this regard the project has been highly successful, being on track to achieve all targets by the end of the project.

The project has made significant contributions in several key areas supporting resilience in the Pacific Islands region, including:

- Procurement, delivery and installation of automatic weather stations (AWS).
- Providing support for disaster preparedness, and the implementation of early response to disaster events through mobilization of qualified personnel and through the development of the Pacific Early Recovery Fund (PERF)
- Development of financial mechanisms included bundled insurance products, and innovative 'crowd-funding' concepts for attracting resources for disaster response and recovery.
- Capacity building in Pacific national agencies, in part through 'South-South' cooperation and personnel exchanges
- Providing a forum for National Disaster Management Directors to address common issues

The project has also been successful in leveraging additional funding to support the sector (\$US 26.2M as recorded in section 5.2).

The project has effectively contributed to higher level outcomes set out in the UNDP subregional program document for the Pacific Island countries and territories. In this context the project has been found to contribute towards: reduced vulnerability and increased resilience; development of newly endorsed sector plans; preparation of formalized recovery preparedness mechanisms, and financial inclusion.

Efficiency:

Project implementation started slowly resulting in a low level of disbursement of funds in the early years. Disbursement has accelerated, particularly in the final year, to the extent that by mid-2020 approximately 91% of total funds had been utilized.

The resource is programmed under component 4 (project support) represents a small percentage of the overall funding. However additional management/overhead costs were distributed across substantive project components. Stakeholders from participating countries expressed satisfaction at the level of resources is made available for direct support at country level. Concern was expressed by some stakeholders about the distribution of project resources between participating countries and territories, seeking clarity about the relative amounts of funding involved and how these decisions were made.

A further consideration relating to efficiency is the overall operation of the management arrangements. Here again there is evidence that the functioning improved over the course of the project to the extent that the project board came to operate as an effective participatory body in which all parties, including UNDP, the donor and participating countries contributed constructively.

Impact:

The project operates across a variety of modes ranging from systemic issues such as climate data through to preparedness and planning, and in some cases direct assistance in post disaster situations. For all these activities there is a connection (as expressed in the Theory of Change) between the activities and project impacts, in the form of benefits to people and communities. For many of these activities, the impact can only be identified and potentially measured in the long term. At the same time the project has been able to mobilize resources and personnel to address the aftermath of disasters (Table 15), with direct positive impacts for the communities concerned; project reports indicate that RESPAC has contributed to supporting recovery needs for over 10,000 families.

Sustainability:

Institutional Sustainability

The project has put in considerable effort to support sustainability across national institutions supporting the project target sectors. However, there is an ongoing need for institutional support beyond the project term.

Economic sustainability

The project has endeavored to institute fundamental changes and mechanisms to protect participating countries from economic loss from disaster events.

Social Sustainability

The above mechanisms are implemented at national level in line with national commitments to institute a collaborative approach in partnership with communities. The project has supported this through providing technical advice/expertise and resources to support national agencies in carrying out this work.

7 Conclusions and Recommendations

The objective of the Terminal Evaluation is to assess four areas as below.

Achievement of results

After a slow start, the project has proven to be well implemented, with a collaborative approach that has successfully addressed the specific targets / indicators set out in the project design. The collaboration and partnerships with existing Pacific regional agencies and institutions have been particularly effective in bringing the most out of the project and the resources available. The project has moved beyond the specific targets to addressing broader regional needs as they have been identified. The project has acted as a catalyst for the mobilisation of additional funds to address key risks and national needs.

Overall, the project has been pro-active in its work, and its approach has been highly valued by participating countries and territories, as well as project partners. Stakeholders commented on the high level of flexibility and responsiveness of the project and the project team, perhaps uniquely so for projects of this type.

Due to COVID-19, some elements of the project are yet to be brought to conclusion, the TE supports the proposal for some additional flexibility in the project term to provide for this.

For the Pacific Islands region, risk and vulnerability are ongoing, particularly in relation to climate change. Consequently, there is an ongoing need for continued support to address these risks.

Relevance

The project is highly relevant to the needs of the region and addresses key areas of risk and vulnerability for Pacific islands countries and territories.

Cross-cutting and gender issues

Gender and other cross-cutting issues did not figure strongly in the project design, but changes were instituted in relation to gender when this gap was highlighted in the MTR.

The project has delivered strongly in the area of capacity building, though more is needed in this area, given the constraints faced by PIC administrations (e.g. lack of critical mass and high turnover within government departments).

Project visibility has been raised through a focused programme to develop communication products, including through social media.

Use of funds and value for money

In line with the rate of project delivery, the rate of expenditure has been slower than planned; this has been mitigated by two no-cost project extensions to allow for expenditure to proceed and the benefits realized. Delays have been caused by a number of factors, notably COVID-19, within this context the project has been implemented efficiently.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: In relation to future Project design

To address some of the design issues encountered in the project, the TE recommends that UNDP consider the following in future project design:

- Include a coherent overall design concept that links activities and targets with high level goals and aspirations that set the scene for project activities
- Include explicit provisions to address inclusion of women, youth and vulnerable people in project activities and outcomes, as well as reporting
- Include appropriate M&E provisions, including realistic indicators and targets that support clear reporting that, taken together, can be used to assist project management
- Incorporate flexibility and clear opportunities for stakeholder (i.e. participating country and territory) input into project management decisions

Recommendation 2: In relation to future Project implementation

Where procurement is a significant component of the project design, the TE recommends that specific expertise (or resources) be assigned to this aspect of the project to ensure quality [fitness for purpose] and timeliness in the procurement of goods and services

Recommendation 3: On sustainability

Recognising that there will be an ongoing need for support in the sectors targeted by this project, the TE recommends that UNDP work with donors to develop a follow-up project that continues and/or scales up the work, in line with relevant regional strategies and plans.

8 Lessons Learned

To what extent are lessons learned being documented by the project team on a continual basis and shared with appropriate parties who could learn from the project?

Annual project reports include a summary of lessons learned relating to the reporting year. The content of these is summarised in the table below.

Table 16: Lessons learned (PMU)		
Year	#	Lesson Learnt (sic: edited for brevity and sense)
2016 ⁷	1	Importance of inception phase with sufficient funding
	2	Importance of coordination between regional agencies and donors in the installation of AWS (to avoid duplication)
2017	3	Need to maintain a common narrative across the 3 main components (to increase the sense of coherence)
	4	The challenge of building resilience at community level when the target beneficiaries are [government officials] and technical staff from regional agencies
	5	The complexity of planning and implementing a 15-country programme is quite challenging, particularly in light of the technical character of the fields (climate change and disaster resilience) and the [limited] time assigned for project delivery
	6	Need to strengthen project communications and visibility
2018	7	The RTC feasibility study showed a gap in terms of economic analysis [of projects and investments] – RESPAC can assist but relies on free sharing of data to ensure that investments are not duplicating national budget commitments

⁷ These taken from the MTR as the 2016 APR was not sighted by the TE

	8	Collaboration between the larger NMHSs with their other counterparts is an excellent way to provide NMHS staff the opportunities to develop their skills in “real” and relevant environments [South-South Cooperation]
2019	9	[in relation to procurement of AWS] that delivery is important but so is quality.

It can be seen that while these ‘lessons’ largely focus on issues encountered during project implementation they provide a useful indication of what has been learned through the PMU experience in implementing the project.

The TE has identified some further issues as presented below.

Role of regional institutions and plans/strategies

The existing regional institutions such as SPC and SPREP (along with other UN agencies) have played a key role in the success of RESPAC, as the existing agencies and sector strategies have established an environment where supplementary funding can be deployed to good effect.

Effectiveness of the PMU and project governance arrangements

As the project has progressed it appears that the partnership between the Project Board, PMU and participating countries has been increasingly effective. The factors behind this seem to have included:

- A key donor (Russian Federation) with a strong interest in the project, coupled with a preparedness to respond to the needs and aims of the participating countries and territories
- A PMU with strong technical skills and connection with the Pacific Islands region, coupled with a real commitment to using project resources as effectively as possible
- Good level of stakeholder engagement with the project and its Board
- The ability and willingness to create linkages with other UN and regional agencies/institutions, as well as other donors

These factors have resulted in a project which was identified by stakeholders as having high degree of flexibility and responsiveness to the needs of participating countries and territories.

Capacity development

Capacity development has been an important element of the project, supporting national institutions to train and retain skilled staff, and make use of new methods and technologies. This area needs ongoing support and would benefit from medium-term monitoring of skills and capacity needs at national level in order to inform future assistance.

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Annex A: Terminal Evaluation Terms of Reference (abridged)**Terms of Reference (TOR)-Terminal Evaluation (TE): RESPAC Project****Ref: PN/FJ/112/20**

Location	Suva, Fiji
Application Deadline	October 19 th 2020
Category	International Consultant (Home based)
Type of Contract	Individual Contractor (International Consultant)
Assignment Type	Terminal Evaluation
Languages required:	English
Starting Date	October 26 th 2020
Duration of Initial Contract:	15 working days
Expected Duration of Assignment:	3 Weeks (Oct- Nov 2020)

BACKGROUND

The Disaster Resilience in the Pacific SIDS (RESPAC) is funded by the Russian Federation, that aims to build the overall resilience of Pacific Island countries (PICs) 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 was intended to complete its activities by December 2019, however a no-cost extension was subsequently approved in mid-2019 for closure in December 2020. 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. The Project Board is responsible for project oversight and decides on the quantum of funding and associated technical support based on need in the respective PICs. 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.

RESPAC intervention is modelled on two prongs: *a) regional* and *b) national* levels and has built on the existing institutional strengths and at the same time complementing the interface of resilient development, effective early warning systems continuity vis-à-vis 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 Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPC), the World Meteorological Organization (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.

The outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Wuhan, China in December 2019 has rapidly morphed into an unprecedented health, economic and geopolitical crisis. With over 22 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and more than 792,000 deaths worldwide, the global pandemic is wreaking havoc on the global economy; triggering severe economic downturns, sending shockwaves through stock markets, and leaving millions across the globe without jobs. The World Bank estimates that the impacts of COVID-19 could push 500 million people further into poverty, and the pandemic threatens to reverse many of the development gains achieved over recent decades.

As of 24 August 2020, 1,239 confirmed cases of COVID-19 including 10 deaths have been reported across five PICs including Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Although PICs have recorded a smaller number of COVID-19 cases, national governments have rapidly implemented public health emergency measures including lockdowns, curfews, physical distancing, travel restrictions, and international border closures to prevent imported cases of COVID-19.

COVID-19 new normal has brought about an interface which has become increasingly complex, uncertain and interconnected. It has affected the modus operandi of project design, development, formulation and implementation across the PICs who often lack reliable and fast connectivity or even mobile phone access. The advent of COVID-19 has restricted mobility and altered human interaction with our stakeholders across PICs. For RESPAC, Low Value Grant (LVG) Agreements, Letter of Agreements have been signed with Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu without in-country verification by our experts. Whilst it is deemed cost-effective on the surface, it has repercussions to sustaining the high standards and maintaining sustained partnerships with Governments, development partners and communities contextualizing the modus operandi in PICs. The consolation however is the established close partnerships and networks in all countries in the areas of Climate Science, Disaster Management Offices and the Ministry of Finance & Planning that makes continued remote implementation and support possible.

OBJECTIVES.

The primary objective of a Terminal Evaluation report is to assess the following:

- achievement of project results against what was expected to be achieved and draws lessons that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from this project and aid overall enhancement of UNDP programming;
- the contribution and alignment of the project to relevant national development plan and contribution of project results towards the Sub Regional Programme Document (SRPD) and the United Nation Pacific Strategy (UNPS/UNDAF);
- Assess any cross cutting and gender issues; and
- Examine the use of funds and value for money.

The TE report promotes accountability and transparency and assess the extent of project accomplishment including performance, visibility and viability of the project as per the DAC criteria on relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability.

SCOPE

The TE will assess project performance against expectations set out in the project's Logical Framework/Results Framework. The TE will assess results according to the criteria outlined in the Guidance for TEs of UNDP. The Findings⁸ section of the TE report will cover the topics listed below. A full outline of

the TE report's content is provided in ToR Annex 1. The TE will cover the programme countries listed earlier in Page 1⁹.

Aspects of Intervention

i. Project Design/Formulation

- National priorities and country driven processes;
- Theory of Change;
- Gender equality and women's empowerment;
- Social and Environmental Safeguards;
- Analysis of Results Framework: project logic and strategy, indicators;
- Assumptions and Risks;
- Lessons from other relevant projects (e.g. same focal area) incorporated into project design;
- Planned stakeholder participation;
- Linkages between project and other interventions within the sector; and
- Management arrangements or governance structure

ii. Project Implementation

- Adaptive management (changes to the project design and project outputs during implementation);
- Actual stakeholder participation and partnership arrangements;
- Project Finance and Co-finance;
- Monitoring & Evaluation: design at entry, implementation, and overall assessment of M&E;
- Implementing Agency (UNDP), overall project oversight/implementation; and
- Risk Management, including Social and Environmental Standards.

iii. Project Results

- Assess the achievement of outputs against indicators by reporting on the level of progress for each objective and output indicator at the time of the TE and noting final achievements;
- Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency and overall project outcome;
- Sustainability: financial, socio-political, institutional framework and governance, environmental, overall likelihood of sustainability;
- Country ownership;
- Gender equality and women's empowerment;
- Cross-cutting issues (poverty alleviation, improved governance, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster prevention and recovery, human rights, capacity development, South-South cooperation, knowledge management, volunteerism, etc., as relevant);
- Catalytic Role / Replication Effect; and
- Progress to impact.

iv. Main Findings, Conclusions, Recommendations and Lessons Learned

- The TE will include a summary of the main findings of the TE report. Findings should be presented as statements of fact that are based on analysis of the data.
- The section on conclusions will be written in light of the findings. Conclusions should be comprehensive and balanced statements that are well substantiated by evidence and logically

⁹ Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Kiribati, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, RMI, Palau

connected to the TE findings. They should highlight the strengths, weaknesses and results of the project, respond to key evaluation questions and provide insights into the identification of and/or solutions to important problems or issues pertinent to project beneficiaries, UNDP including issues in relation to gender equality and women's empowerment.

- Recommendations should provide concrete, practical, feasible and targeted recommendations directed to the intended users of the evaluation about what actions to take and decisions to make. The recommendations should be specifically supported by the evidence and linked to the findings and conclusions around key questions addressed by the evaluation.
- The TE report should also include lessons that can be taken from the evaluation, including best and worst practices in addressing issues relating to relevance, performance and success that can provide knowledge gained from the particular circumstance (programmatic and evaluation methods used, partnerships, financial leveraging, etc.) that are applicable to other UNDP interventions. When possible, the TE team should include examples of good practices in project design and implementation.
- It is important for the conclusions, recommendations and lessons learned of the TE report to include results related to gender equality and empowerment of women.

METHODOLOGY

Noting that the eventual candidate selected to carry out the Terminal Evaluation of the RESPAC Project 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 that needs to be adhered to in good faith:

- E-consultation:** Given the advent of COVID-19 and travel restrictions affecting mobility, e-consultation will have to be undertaken across the Pacific and the 15 participating countries. the consultant should be able to consult with stakeholders concerned and provide evidence-based information that is credible, reliable and useful. The Fiji consultation can be facilitated in-person with NDMO, Fiji MET, SPC and other relevant stakeholders. This will be facilitated by the National consultant(s).
- Desk Research:** The Consultant should review all relevant sources of information including documents prepared during the project preparation phase and its 4 years of implementation.
- Participatory Approach:** The Consultant is expected to follow a collaborative and participatory approach¹ ensuring close engagement with the Project Team, government counterparts (the RESPAC Operational Focal Points), relevant UNDP Offices and other key stakeholders.
- Data Review and Analysis:** Data collected will be analysed and presented based on the evaluation criteria and ratings. It can be presented in the form of graphs, tables and figures to best represent the findings and key recommendations;
- Final Report:** The final project evaluation report should include descriptions of the approach and methodologies and the rationales for such including making explicit the underlying assumptions, challenges, strengths and weaknesses.

KEY QUESTIONS

Specific project evaluation questions based on the DAC criteria is enlisted below.

Relevance:

To what extent was the project in line with the national development priorities, the country programme's outputs and outcomes, the UNDP Strategic Plan and the SDGs?

To what extent does the project contribute to the theory of change for the relevant country programme outcome?

To what extent were lessons learned from other relevant projects considered in the project's design?

To what extent were perspectives of those who could affect the outcomes, and those who could contribute information or other resources to the attainment of stated results, taken into account during the project design processes?

To what extent does the project contribute to gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights-based approach?

To what extent has the project been appropriately responsive to political, legal, economic, institutional, etc., changes in the country?

Effectiveness:

To what extent did the project contribute to the country programme outcomes and outputs, the SDGs, the UNDP Strategic Plan and national development priorities?

To what extent were the project outputs achieved?

What factors have contributed to achieving or not achieving intended country programme outputs and outcomes?

To what extent has the UNDP partnership strategy been appropriate and effective?

What factors contributed to effectiveness or ineffectiveness?

In which areas does the project have the greatest achievements? Why and what have been the supporting factors? How can the project build on or expand these achievements?

In which areas does the project have the fewest achievements? What have been the constraining factors and why? How can or could they be overcome?

What, if any, alternative strategies would have been more effective in achieving the project's objectives?

Are the project's objectives and outputs clear, practical and feasible within its frame?

To what extent have stakeholders been involved in project implementation?

To what extent are project management and implementation participatory and is this participation contributing towards achievement of the project objectives?

To what extent has the project been appropriately responsive to the needs of the national constituents and changing partner priorities?

To what extent has the project contributed to gender equality, the empowerment of women and the realization of human rights?

Efficiency:

To what extent was the project management structure as outlined in the project document efficient in generating the expected results?

To what extent have the UNDP project implementation strategy and execution been efficient and cost-effective?

To what extent has there been an economical use of financial and human resources? Have resources (funds, human resources, time, expertise, etc.) been allocated strategically to achieve outcomes?

To what extent have resources been used efficiently? Have activities supporting the strategy been cost-effective?

To what extent have project funds and activities been delivered in a timely manner?

To what extent do the M&E systems utilized by UNDP ensure effective and efficient project management?

Sustainability:

Are there any financial risks that may jeopardize the sustainability of project outputs?

To what extent will financial and economic resources be available to sustain the benefits achieved by the project?

Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project outputs and the project's contributions to country programme outputs and outcomes?

Do the legal frameworks, policies and governance structures and processes within which the project operates pose risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project benefits?

To what extent did UNDP actions pose an environmental threat to the sustainability of project outputs?

What is the risk that the level of stakeholders' ownership will be sufficient to allow for the project benefits to be sustained?

To what extent do mechanisms, procedures and policies exist to allow primary stakeholders to carry forward the results attained on gender equality, empowerment of women, human rights and human development?

To what extent do stakeholders support the project's long-term objectives?

To what extent are lessons learned being documented by the project team on a continual basis and shared with appropriate parties who could learn from the project?

To what extent do UNDP interventions have well-designed and well-planned exit strategies?

What could be done to strengthen exit strategies and sustain?

Evaluation cross-cutting issues sample questions

Human rights:

To what extent have poor, indigenous and physically challenged, women and other disadvantaged and marginalized groups benefited from the work of UNDP in the country?

Gender equality:

To what extent have gender equality and the empowerment of women been addressed in the design, implementation and monitoring of the project?

Is the gender marker data assigned to this project representative of reality?

To what extent has the project promoted positive changes in gender equality and the empowerment of women? Were there any unintended effects?

Annex B: Midterm Review – UNDP Management Response

UNDP Management Response Template

[Disaster Resilience in the Pacific Small Island Developing States RESPAC Mid Term Review Date: 09 August 2019]

Prepared by: Noud Leenders **Position:** RESPAC Project Manager Unit/ Bureau: UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji/RBAP

Cleared by: Levan Bouadze **Position :** Resident Representative Unit/Bureau: UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji/RBAP

Input into and update in ERC: Merewalesi Laveti **Position:** Monitoring & Evaluation Analyst Unit/ Bureau: UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji/RBAP

Overall comments: It is acknowledged that the overall recommendations of the project are positive particularly in terms of beneficiary engagement which is consistent with the feedback received through the Board Meetings. There are however room for improvement as highlighted in the need to improve the M&E framework and the inclusion of result data in the annual reports. Other recommendations such as the need for clear exit strategy is quite valid and will be addressed in the coming year.

1. Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 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.

Management Response: The comment is noted, and the Project Team will undertake to include information on project results in the Annual Reports. The need to separate result data based on annual and cumulative targets is also noted. Finally, the narrative on whether the project is on track to deliver the expected result is also noted.

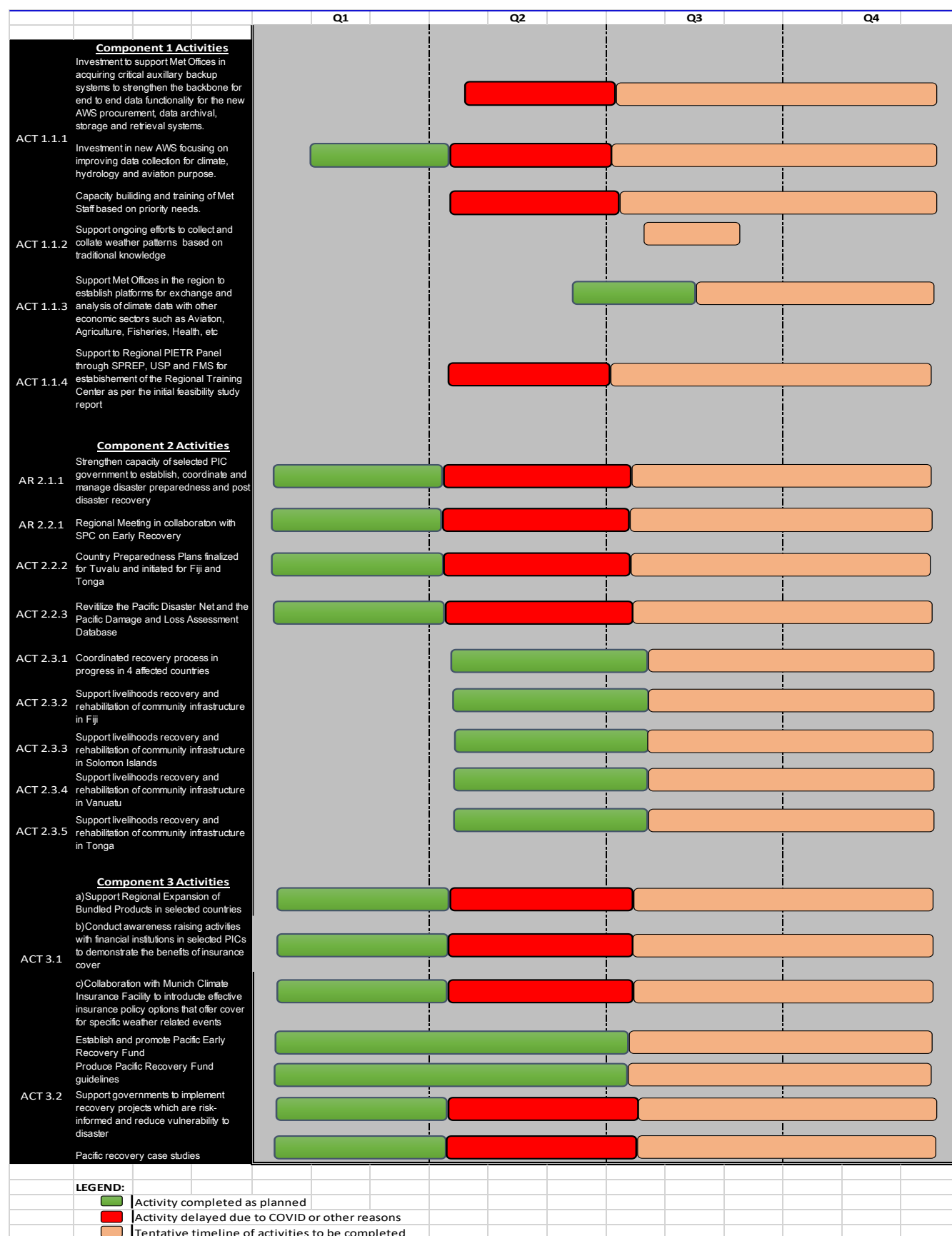
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking*	
			Status	Comments
1.1. Include narrative of Annual and Cumulative Targets and indicate if results are achieved and on target	30- October - 2019	RESPAC	Ongoing	

1.2 Compilation of Annual Report s (for 2019)	31 December 2019	RESPAC	Ongoing	
2. Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 2: UNDP to use the opportunity of a no-cost extension (if granted) to review the Results and Resources Framework 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 end of the project.				
Management Response: Duly noted and accepted.				
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking	
			Status	Comments
2.1. Revise RRF based in line with recommendation	30- October 2019	RESPAC, IRMU	Ongoing	
2.2. Conduct a one-day M&E Seminar with and obtain approval of the revised RRF from the project board.	30- November 2019	RESPAC	Ongoing	
3. Evaluation Recommendation or Issue3: UNDP to prepare the Project Sustainability and Exit Strategy and submit it for discussion as an agenda item at the 2019 Project Board meeting.				
Management Response: Duly noted and accepted				
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking	
			Status	Comments
3.1 Discussion with Principal Project Donor on potential support for extension and areas of funding	15- September-2019	RESPAC	Ongoing	
3.2 Based on the feedback from the donor, prepare Sustainability and Exit Strategy for discussion at the Project Board Meeting	20 January 2020	RESPAC	Ongoing	
4. Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 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.				
Management response: Gender Equality takes years of dedicated work and balanced recruitment policy to bring gender equality in Government (Civil) Service particularly in male dominated areas such as meteorology and disaster management. UNDP through RESPAC and other projects are advocating for equal opportunities and non-discrimination recruitment policies based on gender however our neutrality must not be taken as lack of proactiveness. We can propose but ultimately it is Government's decision on who to hire and whom not to.				
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking	
			Status	Comments
4.1 Review of strategic guidelines with NMHS and NDMOs to include review of recruitment practices and hiring of females	30-June-2020	RESPAC	On going	

4.2 Monitoring and reporting towards sex-disaggregated data generated by the project	30-November 2019	RESPAC	Ongoing	
4.3 Scholarship Programme under RTC to approve scholarships on 50/50 basis with first chance provided to females	30-June-2020	RESPAC	Ongoing	
5. Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 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.				
Management response: Duly Noted and accepted				
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking	
			Status	Comments
5.1 Develop a coherent communications strategy aligned with RSD	28-February-2020	RSD/RESPAC	Ongoing	
5.2 Enhance Communications Associate in understanding technical matters on CLEWS and ORM and Finance	30-June-2020	RESPAC	Ongoing	
6. Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 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.				
Management response: Duly noted and accepted				
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking	
			Status	Comments
6.1 Initial dialogue with Principal Donor	15 September -2019	RESPAC	Ongoing	
6.2 Prepare annual workplan and other documents including additional funding needs	30 September-2019	RESPAC	Ongoing	

* The implementation status is tracked in the ERC

Annex C: COVID-19 - Effects on RESPAC



Annex D: Results and Resources Framework – Project Reporting to Mid 2020

Output 1.0: Strengthened gender-sensitized early warning and climate monitoring capacity in selected PICs with a view to reduce losses and impact on the most vulnerable.

OUTPUT INDICATORS	INDICATORS FROM PRODOC	OUTPUT INDICATOR RESULTS [-] = ANNUAL TARGETS			
		2017	2018	2019	2020
1.1 # of NMS-sector working groups that have established sector-climate data correlation to support Early Warning Systems	# of data sharing agreements # of NMS-sector working groups # of climate early warning products produced # of sector plans that explicitly address climate risk	1 Vanuatu MoH and Met. Services [2]	In progress [1]	0 Work in progress [1]	Progress Keys: Ongoing online consultations with Sugar Research Institute of Fiji (SRIF). Health – draft MOU in place Status: On track [1]
1.1 Cont.	# of sector specialists trained in CLEWs # of community dialogues # of sectors and communities implementing gender-sensitive risk reduction measures			0 Work in progress [1 data sharing agreements signed]	Progress Keys: Agreement to also cover: Land, Instrument, Station Maintenance & Upkeep, Data Collection and Transmission, Data Ownership, Support & Training FMS will be meeting Solicitor General’s Office to advise on the Agreement Status: On track [1 data sharing agreement -signed between (Fiji -FMS &FSC/EFL)]
				0 Work in progress [1 climate early warning product produced]	Progress Keys: There is are existing products For EFL and FSC. Product will be enhanced through the MOU with project support. Status: On track [1 sector specific climate product disseminated and shared EFL & FSC]

				<p>2 Vanuatu (NCOF)/Fiji (World Met Day) [2 community level dialogues]</p>	<p>Progress Keys: Consultation on-going with FMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 sector-based SOP for climate related risks operational (not possible for FMS to achieve in Dec 2020. But is relevant for the long term. Can include in second phase) • Recommend replacing with – 1 Tourism Monthly Climate Outlook developed. <p>Status: On track [1 Tourism Monthly Climate Outlook developed.]</p>
				<p>0 [1 sector plans that explicitly address climate risk]</p>	<p>Progress Keys: Consultation on-going with FMS.</p> <p>Status: On track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [2 sector plans integrate climate risk Fiji - (Tourism/ Energy)]
				<p>2 Vanuatu/Fiji [2 National Climate Outlook forums conducted]</p>	
				<p>1 [1 Pacific Climate Outlook forum supported with SPREP]</p>	
				<p>0 [1 user evaluation conducted]</p>	<p>Progress Keys: FMS is reviewing Climate Outlook, Drought Bulletin, Early Warning Rainfall Watch, and Climate Survey as part of the 2019 NCOF</p>

					Status: On track [Minimum 2 user evaluation conducted (EFL/FSC)]
				0 [1 lesson learned forum conducted]	Progress Keys: NCOF is a lesson learned forum. 3 NCOFS have been supported (Vanuatu 2018 & 2019, Fiji 2019) 3 lessons learned forum conducted Status: Achieved [1 lesson learned forum conducted]
				0 [% of women that participated in the lesson learned forum – 1 (sic)]	Progress Keys: Fiji 2019 NCOF 53 participant (16 females & 37 males). Women participants 30%. Status: Achieved. [At least 30% women participants]
				0 [1 guide to climate services produced]	Progress Keys: FMS is reviewing Climate Outlook, Drought Bulletin, Early Warning Rainfall Watch, and Climate Survey as part of the 2019 NCOF Status: On track [2 guides to climate services enhanced]
				0 [1 guideline on sector level data collection provided]	Progress Keys: Will be considered in the data sharing agreement. Between FMS &FSC/EFL Status: On track [2 guidelines on sector level data collection provided (Aviation/Energy/Agriculture/health)]

1.2 # of countries with National Met Officers on improved climate early warning system (CLEWS) and monitoring capacity (<i>disaggregated by gender</i>)		4 Kiribati, Tonga Solomon & Vanuatu [3]	4 Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, Nauru [2]	2 Fiji [2]	<p>Progress Keys: Ocean Policy Meeting – Bipen and Terry (2 males) – FMS</p> <p>FMS Annual Work planning – Junior Officers</p> <p>On the job training will be conducted during the AWS maintenance and installation.</p> <p>Study tour with OTTS Hydromet in Virginia will also be arranged for staff from FMS (3) & VMS (2).</p> <p>Status: On track [9]</p>
1.3 # of countries with improved technical capacity in CLEWS equipment		0 [1]	2 Fiji, PNG In progress Niue, Tokelau, Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Kiribati & Vanuatu [3]	2 Fiji, PNG In progress Niue, Tokelau, Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Kiribati & Vanuatu [3]	<p>Progress Keys: Pacific Meteorology Council endorsed the RTC. Consultation with USP and Rosyhydromet (Russian) ongoing.</p> <p>Status: On track [Regional Training Center established and operational (PMU/USP)]</p>
1.3 Cont.					<p>Progress Keys: Consultation on-going with USP</p> <p>Status: On track [Financing mechanism for RTC established]</p> <p>Progress Keys Contract for supply of AWS was awarded to OTT Hydromet in February 2020. Equipment expected to arrive in July to Fiji then shipped to countries.</p> <p>Status:</p>

					<p>On track</p> <p>[9 countries with newly installed AWS and existing AWS repaired, operational and reporting.</p> <p>Cook Is – 2 (Suvarrow & Nasau)</p> <p>Kiribati – 5 (Butaritari, Nikunau, Tabiteua, Kanton, Phoenix)</p> <p>Nauru – 1 (Top Site)</p> <p>Fiji – 4 (</p> <p>SOI – 5 (Agricultural Stations -4, Henderson International Airport – 1)</p> <p>Vanuatu – 1 (Linua Airport, Torba Province)</p> <p>Niue – 1 (Atofi International Airport)</p> <p>Tuvalu – 3 (Nanumaga, Vaitupu, Nukulaelae)]</p>
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Output 2.0: Institutionalize capacities to manage effective recovery processes to reduce risks and promote resilient development.

OUTPUT INDICATORS	INDICATORS FROM PRODOC	OUTPUT INDICATOR RESULTS [-] = ANNUAL TARGETS			
		2017	2018	2019	2020
2.1 # of national/regional experts that have improved capacity in Post Disaster Recovery as part of South to South Cooperation (disaggregated by Gender)	<p># of gender-sensitive pre-disaster recovery plans</p> <p># of national and regional actors capacitated in recovery assessments, including gender issues</p>	1 Fiji male [1]	46 (34 males and 12 females) – FSM, Fiji, RMI, SOL, Tonga, VUV, UNDP, ILO, SPC, SPREP, EU, FAO, Pacific	46 (34 males and 12 females) – FSM, Fiji, RMI, SOL, Tonga, VUV, UNDP, ILO, SPC, SPREP, EU,	<p>Progress Keys PHT engaged on Fiji CPP planning and consultation/COVID-19 response coordination/TC Harold response and recovery.</p> <p>Status: Achieved. [2 recovery activities with PHT (Fiji CPP/COVID-19)]</p>

2.1 Cont.	# of post-disaster needs assessments conducted		Disability Forum and Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization [5]	FAO, Pacific Disability Forum and Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization [5]	
	# of recovery assessments conducted, including gender analysis				
	# of recovery monitoring tools developed and in use.				<p>Progress Keys Thirty-five (35) participants (12F/23M) from national and provincial government attended PDNA/DRF training from 24-28 February 2020.</p> <p>Status: Achieved [1 national assessments of post disaster planning and programming approaches (Vanuatu PDNA Training)]</p> <p>Progress Keys Tools to be explored for TC Harold – Fiji, Solomons, Tonga & Vanuatu (Ambae).</p> <p>Fiji - 12 laptops donated to Fiji NDMO office for emergency operations</p> <p>Nauru - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) donated to the National Emergency Services to strengthen preparedness for the Coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19)</p> <p>Status: On track [2 countries using tools for recovery monitoring/implementation (Fiji -CPP & Vanuatu PDNA training)]</p> <p>Progress Keys – Community Consultations mechanisms to be explored for communities supported through TC Harold Recovery – Fiji, Vanuatu, SOI & Tonga.</p>

					<p>Status: On track [2 countries with community consultation mechanisms (Fiji -CPP & Vanuatu PDNA training)]</p> <p>Progress Keys – Vanuatu plans to conduct PDNA for TC Harold. The adapted IDA/PDNA is expected to be used.</p> <p>Status: On track [1 country with Initial Damage Assessment tool modified to support PDNA, and available (Vanuatu-PDNA Training)]</p> <p>Progress Keys – Recovery case studies planned for TC Harold Recovery – Fiji, Vanuatu, SOI & Tonga.</p> <p>Status: On track [1 case study on recovery (Vanuatu- Ambae)]</p> <p>Progress Keys – Knowledge exchange tours planned for TC Harold Recovery – Fiji, Vanuatu, SOI & Tonga.</p> <p>Status: On track [1 knowledge exchange tour (Vanuatu-Ambae)]</p> <p>Progress Keys – CPP is expected to outline this. Fiji CPP stakeholder consultation was conducted in February.</p> <p>Status: On track [1 national meeting to establish recovery policy, structure and processes (Fiji -CCP)]</p> <p>Progress Keys – CPP is expected to outline this. Fiji/Tuvalu.</p> <p>Status:</p>
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					<p>On track [At least 1 gender sensitive recover policy, structure and processes established]</p> <p>Progress Keys – SPC is working towards the finalization of PDN and PDalo databases.</p> <p>Status: On track [2 historical loss databases supported Pacific Disaster Net (PDN)& Pacific Damage and Loss Assessment Information (PDalo) systems (SPC LOA)]</p> <p>Progress Keys – SPC is working towards the finalization of PDN and PDalo databases.</p> <p>Status: On track [1 baseline dataset strengthened in selected PICs (Vanuatu -Productive/Social/Infrastructure/Cross Cutting)]</p> <p>Progress Keys – Consultation ongoing with Vanuatu and Fijian Governments.</p> <p>Status: On track [2 national-subnational recovery mechanisms established (Vanuatu- National/Provincial - PDNA; Fiji – National/Divisional Community – CPP)]</p> <p>Progress Keys – Vanuatu Government has adapted the PDNA to the National Initial Damage Assessment.</p> <p>Status: Achieved [1 recovery assessment tools streamlined to the Pacific context (Vanuatu PDNA training)]</p> <p>Progress Keys – 1 Fijian male PDNA expert supported Vanuatu PDNA training.</p>
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					Status: Achieved [2 regional experts that have improved capacity in Post Disaster Recovery as part of South to South Cooperation (male, female) (Vanuatu PDNA training)]
2.2 # Country Preparedness Packages (CPP) informing country disaster response and recovery in PICT		1 completed & 2 in draft [2]	1 Cook Islands completed. Tuvalu in progress. [2]	1 Cook Islands completed. Tuvalu in progress. [2]	Progress Keys – Consultation with Fijian and Tuvalu governments on the finalization of CPP. Status: On track [2 country preparedness packages established (Fiji, Tuvalu)]
2.3 # of countries affected by TC Harold with coordinated recovery processes in progress		0 [2]			Progress Keys – 2 LOAs signed with Governments (Vanuatu and Tonga), 3 LGV signed with NGOs (SOI, Fiji and Tonga) 1 PDNA (Vanuatu) in process led by the Government with the involvement of sector ministries and UN and other partners Status: On track [4 countries with coordinated recovery processes in progress]
2.3 Cont.					Progress Keys – 4,300 families benefited by initiatives for livelihoods recovery implemented in SOI, Fiji and Tonga Status: On track [6,500 affected families supported by recovery initiatives implemented in coordination with Governments, NGOs and/or civil society organizations (disaggregated by country, sex and age)]

					<p>Progress Keys – DFAT (280k) + ADRA (15k) representing 49% of additional support to TRAC funds (600k)</p> <p>Status: On track [50% of additional funds mobilized for recovery in view of the seed funding purpose of the TRAC 1.1.3 mechanism]</p>
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Output 3: Increased use of financial instruments to manage and share disaster related risk and fund post disaster recovery efforts at the national and local level.

OUTPUT INDICATORS	INDICATORS FROM PRODOC	OUTPUT INDICATOR RESULTS [-] = ANNUAL TARGETS			
		2017	2018	2019	2020
3.1 # of innovative climate related insurance-based solutions designed and shared with the Insurance Industry	# of SMEs with business continuity plans # of disaster risk products being developed # of recovery projects implemented	0 [0]	1 Fiji [1]	1 Fiji [1]	<p>Progress Keys – Consultation with Government of Vanuatu and Kiribati Insurance Corporation to rollout micro-bundled insurance. This include translating brochures in vernacular.</p> <p>Status: On track [1 innovative climate related insurance-based solutions designed and shared with the Insurance Industry (Parametric insurance)]</p>
3.2 # of countries with SMEs that have improved knowledge of climate related insurance cover	# of individuals and institutions trained in disaster risk financing	11 Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New	1 Vanuatu [1]	1 Vanuatu [1]	<p>Progress Keys – PFIP has been consulting farmers group in Fiji and communities to roll out micro-bundled insurance. Welagi Village, Taveuni. Consulted Fiji Ex-Servicemen Association with 2,000 plus membership for bundled micro-insurance.</p>

		Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu [10]			Status: On track [1 SME and sector specific disaster risk products identified and developed (SME – Dairy, Copra, Rice; Sector-fisheries)]
3.3 # of countries that have access RESPAC Early Recovery Fund (Pacific Early Recovery Fund – PERF)		0 [0]	In progress Vanuatu & Fiji [2]	In progress Vanuatu & Fiji [2]	Progress Keys – Guideline produced. Status: Completed [1 early recovery fund guidelines produced (PERF)]
3.3 Cont.					Progress Keys –Achieved and operational. Status: Implementation ongoing [1 early recovery fund operational (PERF)] Progress Keys –Achieved and operational in 3 countries. Vanuatu Ambae Volcano Recovery/Fiji TC Harold Recovery/Tonga TC Harold Recovery. Status: Implementation ongoing [1 country that have access to PERF (Kiribati, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Fiji, SOI, etc.)] Progress Keys –Achieved and operational in 3 projects under implementation. Vanuatu/Fiji/Tonga. Status: Implementation ongoing [1 recovery project under implementation (Kiribati, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, SOI, etc.)] Progress Keys –3 Recovery Case Studies. Vanuatu/Fiji/Tonga. Status: Implementation ongoing [2 Pacific recovery case studies conducted (Vanuatu/ Fiji)]

Annex E: Compendium of activities by country / territory

RESPAC Country Summaries

These summaries have been generated by searching the Project Reports. Note that regional and multi-country activities appear in the list for each country (i.e. there are repeated entries where more than one country is listed as a participant / beneficiary).

Cook Islands

2017

- Ten countries have improved knowledge of climate related insurance through a Regional Dialogue on Financial Management of Climate Risks. These countries are Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.
- The Republic of Marshall Islands Country Preparedness Plan (CPP) was produced and for Tuvalu and Cook Islands are being finalized
- A Country Preparedness Package for Republic of Marshall Islands has been completed whereas for Cook Islands and Tuvalu are in drafts.
- national level PDNA and Disaster Recovery Framework (DRF) training has been delivered in Tonga and the Cook Islands
- RESPAC has provided extensive support to the delivery of Country Preparedness Packages (CPPs) in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Cook Islands and Tuvalu.
- Drafted CPP for the Cook Islands

2019

- Installation of AWS in Suvarrow and Nasau
- [footnote] It must be noted that through various projects and donors, there has been an influx of equipment however resources to install these in far and remote locations have proven a challenge. RESPAC has stepped in this area by helping countries install what they already had received as in the case of Fiji and Cook Islands.

Federated States of Micronesia

2017

- (Identifying mechanisms to identify and support post-disaster recovery needs and priorities for impacted communities) The first session in this work has been delivered in the Federated States of Micronesia and brought together representatives from the community and government from all four states.
- Capacities of regional experts in post disaster recovery were enhanced through a post disaster needs assessment training. Ten countries have improved knowledge of climate related insurance through a Regional Dialogue on Financial Management of Climate Risks. These countries are Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.
- There was no government-community disaster recovery communication action plan established but discussions have led to enhanced understanding of the main communication weaknesses in the Federated States of Micronesia that appear to be regionally and can be addressed as such.
- (Partnerships) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) affiliates in: Micronesia

2018

- In collaboration with the World Bank, European Union and Pacific Community (SPC) a regional PDNA and DRF training was conducted from 9-13 April in Suva, Fiji. The PICs that participated include Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.
- Under Component 2 of RESPAC, activities that RESPAC conducted included providing support to the Kingdom of Tonga and to Vanuatu in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Gita) and the Ambae Volcanic eruptions respectively. Technical assistance was mobilized and deployed to both countries and funding resources in the amount of USD200,000 was also raised. The project provided early recovery training in Micronesia and Palau.

2019

- (Partnerships) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) affiliates in: Micronesia

2020

- Over the course of the 3 years, RESPAC has taken a more prudent approach and ensured that there were substantial benefits for most of the countries. Hence with the exception of Samoa, and the 3 Northern Pacific Countries (Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and Republic of Marshall Islands), RESPAC has contributed material investments leading to the establishment of AWS networks in Tuvalu, Nauru and Tokelau, as well as the expansion of AWS Networks in PNG, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Fiji, Vanuatu.
- PDNA/DRF Training for Palau: The project staff also facilitated PDNA and DRF trainings for the Northern Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction project in Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) scheduled for the initial consecutive weeks of February 2020. 36 participants attended the training from the various Palau Departments/Bureaus, however, the FSM did not eventuate given the advent of COVID-19 travel restrictions.
- Despite these pre-conditions, RESPAC team was able to leverage additional funding to complement the project scope, coverage and improve the greater functionality of the UNDP Pacific Office. As at June end 2020, the additional funding has summed to US\$26.22 million, including: Japan Supplementary Budget funding for the North Pacific (FSM, Palau & RMI)-US\$22.5 million.

Fiji**2017**

- Ten countries have improved knowledge of climate related insurance through a Regional Dialogue on Financial Management of Climate Risks. These countries are Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.
- One male regional expert from Fiji has improved capacity in early recovery and post disaster needs assessment.
- One innovative climate related bundled insurance product was designed in tandem with Fiji Care Insurance, Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme and Sugarcane Growers Fund for the members of the Sugarcane Growers Association. The insurance product will cover disaster related property damage, medical and life coverage for registered farmers. The product is expected to benefit 16,000

farmers and 64,000 family members with average family size of 4 adult equivalent. Eleven countries have improved knowledge of climate related insurance cover while attending the Pacific Regional Dialogue on Financial Management of Climate Risks.

- The project is working towards the establishment of the Fiji and Samoa working groups.
- For output indicator 2.1 one Fiji male regional expert on post disaster recovery has improved capacity as part of South-South cooperation with the Solomon Islands.
- RESPAC, in collaboration with the Insurance Company Fiji Care, the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme and the Fiji Sugar Cane Growers Council have designed a prototype bundled insurance product that will cover property disaster related damage, medical and life insurance coverage for registered farmers. The product is expected to benefit 16,000 farmers and 64,000 family members with average family size of 4 adult equivalent.
- With the Fiji case, the FMS has already designated 8 of its staff to receive this training and upon completion proceed to undertake installations in the 7 locations damaged by Cyclone Winston. [Niwa training technicians on maintenance of AWS]
- A field trip involving climate scientists and health officials from Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu visited Solomon Islands in May to study how the latter used the MalaClim model to predict the outbreak of malaria.
- In Fiji and Samoa, there are previous examples of Met-Health sectors collaborating to establish working groups however, these efforts were stalled due to the completion of projects that provided funding. With RESPAC support, these efforts are now being revived and in Vanuatu, both the Health and the Meteorology Departments have recently signed a data sharing agreement (see press release, as per Annex 2) to improve the tracking of climate related diseases and build early warning capacity. It is expected that model or prototype will be operationalized in Fiji by 2018.
- Under the project, a Fijian expert in early recovery and Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) supported earthquake recovery in the Solomon Islands, leading the formulation of an Earthquake Recovery Plan, subsequently endorsed by Cabinet
- [risks] In Fiji, Meteorology (previously under the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure) will now be combined with the National Disaster Management Office under one Ministry, like some other countries in the region.

2018

- Through RESPAC, start-up funding has been provided to PFIP's local partners such as the Fiji Care (a private insurer) and the Sugar Cane Growers Council. This scheme has received a major boost with the Fiji Government opting to buy in insurance for social welfare recipients and civil servants that are on the low end of the income bracket.
- In February 2018, Mr. Mauna Eria, Senior Climate Officer with the Kiribati Met Services, Mr. Shivneel Narayan, Scientific Officer- Forecasting with the Fiji Met Office and Mr. Siaosi Palu, Forecaster with the Tonga Met Service commenced a nine-month Basic Instructional Package course in Meteorology (BIP-M) at the Melbourne Australia based Bureau of Meteorology Training Center.
- In March 2018, Mr. Andrew Harper, Lead Instruments Specialist with the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) conducted a 2-week training in which 15 staff of the Fiji Met Services participated of which 6 technicians received certificates of proficiency in terms of fault finding and maintenance of AWS. Prior to this training, around 14 of the 35 AWS used by the Fiji Met Services, or around 35% of all AWS under its network were malfunctioning. As a result of this training and site maintenance, all 35 AWS sites were reporting and overall for Fiji, AWS reporting improved from 73% to 99%.

- Even for countries like Fiji, spending tax payer funds on AWS maintenance can be an expensive affair. In May 2018, Mr. Haoliang Xu, UNDP Regional Director for Asia and Pacific and Ms. Osnat Lubrani, UNDP Resident Representative handed over USD35,000 worth of AWS spares, funded by the RESPAC project to the Fiji Met Services to ensure that continuity is maintained, and AWS malfunctions are quickly fixed.
- The report recommended that the University of the South Pacific working together with the [RTC] Pacific Met Council and the Fiji Meteorological Services could be prepared to host the first batch of training recipients. The latter is already hosting such courses with the assistance of the Japanese Government and hence, is quite well positioned to assume the role of an accredited trainer in the future. Subsequent to the development of this report, the Australian Government announced a grant of AUD 10 million to support a Disaster Management Training Facility in Fiji. The combination of this facility with a Regional Training Center also based in Fiji will be very useful in terms of logistics and cost effectiveness.
- In August and September 2018, the FMS conducted two trainings with their stakeholders from different sectors such as the Water Authority of Fiji, Energy Fiji Ltd, National Disaster Management Office, Ministry Agriculture, Sugar Research Institute of Fiji, Fiji Sugar Cooperation. The main aim of the workshop was to have a shared understanding of climate science and based on this collaborate with these partners to improve the quality of climate reporting across the country. Over 60 persons with almost half of them women attended and benefitted from this training.
- In collaboration with the World Bank, European Union and Pacific Community (SPC) a regional PDNA and DRF training was conducted from 9-13 April in Suva, Fiji. The PICs that participated include Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga

2019

- For Climate Science, Observation and Forecasting, RESPAC has also supported skill enhancement through trainings at regional level, mostly at the Fiji Meteorological Services, some on the job training through South-South Cooperation arrangements within NMHS, as well as longer term and accredited trainings at the Australian Bureau of Meteorology
- [footnote p3] It must be noted that through various projects and donors, there has been an influx of equipment however resources to install these in far and remote locations have proven a challenge. RESPAC has stepped in this area by helping countries install what they already had received as in the case of Fiji and Cook Islands
- Two male staff from the Fiji National Met Services graduated with the Graduate Diploma in Meteorology at the Australian Bureau of Meteorology Training Center (BMTC) Melbourne Australia on 30 October.
- [Impact based forecasting] UNDP RESPAC was asked to fund the Disaster Managers and 4 countries, namely Fiji, Tuvalu, Kiribati and Vanuatu, and will make attempts to ensure that the groundwork to support Impact Based Forecasting is carried out in 2020.
- [training attachments] In October 2019, Mr. Abel Kalo and Ms. Glenda Pakoa, Climate Division Staff within the Vanuatu Meteorological and GeoHazards Division (VMGD) were attached with the Climate Division of the FMS to improve their knowledge and skills on CLiDE. In between these 2 attachments, Mr. Atish Kumar, Senior Technical Officer with the FMS visited Vanuatu to assist the VMGD staff with their CLiDE and data digitization needs.
- In June and November respectively, 3 officers from Solomons Met and Fiji Met attended training with Australian Quality Management Training Authority and the New Zealand counterpart respectively.
- [work to be done] Support to FMS to install 4 * AWOS (already purchased by Fiji Govt) to be installed at Nadi International Airport

- [regional climate Outlook forum RCOF] Although RESPAC did not financially support the 2019 RCOF other than paying for participation of Mr. Bipendra Prakash, Senior Scientific Officer with the Fiji Met Services, the project was appreciative of SPREPs efforts to continue with the fifth Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICOFF) held at the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), Nouméa, New Caledonia from 17-18 October 2019
- [NCOF Vanuatu] The target audience includes farmers representing six provinces of Vanuatu, community representatives/members of the Vanuatu Rainfall Network (VRN), government officials of each sector responsible for agriculture and food security, technical directorates from SPREP and UNDP as well as climate officers from Vanuatu and Fiji Meteorological Services.
- The Fiji National Climate Outlook Forum was held in Nadi from 2-6 December.
- In 2018, RESPAC in collaboration with the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP) partnered with FijiCare Insurance Limited and developed a bundled micro-insurance product. The product offers both life and non-life insurance covers. These include funeral, term life, personal accident and fire. The product was initially implemented in Fiji in 2018... The product currently covers: dairy, rice and copra farmers; social welfare recipients, and civil servants including military, police and correctional officers whose annual income is less than USD15,000 or FJD 30,000. In the 2018/2019 national budget presented in Parliament in June 2018, the Fiji Attorney General and Minister for Economy announced the micro-insurance scheme will benefit 107,417 Fijians covering 72,376 social welfare recipients and 35,041 civil servants. In 2019, FijiCare Insurance signed up Fiji Meat Industry Association and Tavua Market Vendors Association with 46 and 50 members respectively.
- In collaboration with PFIP and other donors conducted an insurance demand study and business plans for the fisheries sector to support sector specific risk financing. The Fisheries Insurance Report was finalized and shared with the Fiji Ministry of Fisheries. [news links p 16]
- [PICAP] This project commenced after discussions between PFIP and RESPAC in 2018 and an additional RESPAC funding element was secured. A technical team was engaged from the MCII in Bonn, and the team assisted PFIP in planning the project. A series of stakeholder engagement meetings took place during February in Tonga, Vanuatu and Fiji, by a joint MCII and PFIP team. After continuous stakeholder engagements, it was determined that the inception phase of the PICAP programme would focus on Fiji and Vanuatu for the first 2 years.
- One important lesson learned in 2019 is that delivery is important but so is quality. In 2019, we have foregone delivery of Automated Weather Stations for 0.6M as we felt that the quality of equipment would not be outlast the harsh Pacific climate circumstances and exposure to sea water. We take responsibility for the loss in delivery but find quality and customer satisfaction in the long run more important. RESPAC intends to take a more business minded approach and is working with the Fiji Meteorological Services to bring an AWS agency to the Pacific.
- 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 [p18]
- The RESPAC team in March 2019, had a awareness booth during Fijis World Meteorology Day celebrations held in Fiji old capital Levuka. On the day, organisers announced their gratitude to UNDP RESPAC and the Russian Federation for the support. Public awareness was also carried out on the island of Taveuni during Fijis celebration for International Disaster Risk Reduction week.

Kiribati

2017

- Four countries including Vanuatu, Kiribati, Solomon and Tonga with national meteorology officers have improved climate early warning and monitoring capacity. Forty-nine males (Vanuatu-47, Solomon-1, Tonga -1) and 22 females (Vanuatu-20, Kiribati-2) were trained.
- Under Output indicator 1.2 four countries (Kiribati, Solomon, Tonga & Vanuatu have improved

climate early warning system and monitoring capacity.

- Collaboration with the FMS and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA): 3 NMHS have improved capacity with the training of their newly recruited and uncertified technicians. In this matter, RESPAC sponsored two female officers from Kiribati and 2 male officers, one each from the Solomon Islands and Tonga to attend the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) standard regional training titled Basic Instruction Package for Meteorological Technicians (BIP-MT) at the FMS training center.

2018

- In February 2018, Mr. Mauna Eria, Senior Climate Officer with the Kiribati Met Services, Mr. Shivneel Narayan, Scientific Officer- Forecasting with the Fiji Met Office and Mr. Siaosi Palu, Forecaster with the Tonga Met Service commenced a nine-month Basic Instructional Package course in Meteorology (BIP-M) at the Melbourne Australia based Bureau of Meteorology Training Center.
- While the overall improvement in forecasting for the entire Pacific region is calculated at 1%, for countries like Kiribati and Tonga the overall improvement is 50% and 20% respectively as the number of qualified forecasters for these countries are limited compared to other neighbouring states like Fiji or PNG.
- Kiribati: The RESPAC project will procure three additional aviation related AWS in Butaritari, Nonouti and Tabuaren as these are some of the islands serviced by Air Kiribati. Additionally, RESPAC will be investing in compact or climate AWS's in three additional sites (Tabuaren, Arorae and Banaban) as per map (figure 6). RESPAC funds will also be used to support the upgrade of the Kiribati Met Office as they seek to expand to accommodate new officers returning from overseas studies/attachments, a classroom/lab and a workshop for repairing and calibrating equipment.

2019

- While risks are always omnipresent and mandates that taxpayer funds are spent in a smart and sustainable manner, the small market challenges continue to challenge the viability of most projects. In this way, RESPAC is trialling out an innovative approach linking Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Nauru as one hub.
- If the building extensions for the Solomons and Kiribati Meteorological Services are completed, there is no doubt that groundwork can also begin in Nauru where the Met Services is expanding and expected to add more staff in 2020.
- In 2020, RESPAC will help Nauru, Solomon and Kiribati to upgrade their building facilities to provide staff with more comfortable working space and have dedicated in house training resources.
- UNDP RESPAC was asked to fund the Disaster Managers and 4 countries, namely Fiji, Tuvalu, Kiribati and Vanuatu, and will make attempts to ensure that the groundwork to support Impact Based Forecasting is carried out in 2020.
- In December 2019, 3 Staff from the Kiribati Met Services, were joined by one staff from Nauru and 2 staff from the Solomon Islands Met Services for a week-long Basic Forecasting Training.

2020

- TC Sino/Sarai/Harold co-ordination support for Fiji and remotely for, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

- At the beginning of the RESPAC project, the initiation phase, the project was requested to come up with a priority list of 3 countries where RESPAC would provide support to establish or strengthen existing climate early warning capacity. The 3 countries identified were PNG, Kiribati and Solomon Islands.
- Hence with the exception of Samoa, and the 3 Northern Pacific Countries (Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and Republic of Marshall Islands), RESPAC has contributed material investments leading to the establishment of AWS networks in Tuvalu, Nauru and Tokelau, as well as the expansion of AWS Networks in PNG, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Fiji, Vanuatu.
- RESPAC continues assisting Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Island (SI), Tuvalu and Kiribati in data storage and archiving. Further, Kiribati, Nauru and SI have been earmarked to receive funding to support the expansion of their existing offices and PNG will be supported to establish a fibre optic link to boost internet speed at the National Flood Forecasting Centre.
- Tropical Cyclone (TC) Sino/Sarai/Harold co-ordination support (remote) for Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu: This work requires co-ordinating response/recovery with the six countries. Since the advent COVID-19 travel restrictions imposed regionally, a lot of this work has been undertaken remotely from the office.
- Currently, PERF is supporting Vanuatu Ambae Volcano Recovery as well as TC Harold Recovery for Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, Kiribati and Tuvalu.
- Kiribati - RESPAC is working with the NDMO on TC Tino/Sarai recovery and reconstruction. The intervention includes reconstruction of private dwellings (sleeping and eating houses) & community meeting houses, procurement of equipment (power tools) and Tsunami Preparedness Awareness Activities.
- For RESPAC, Low Value Grant (LVG) Agreements, Letter of Agreements have been signed with Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu without in-country verification by our experts. Whilst it is deemed cost-effective on the surface, it has repercussions to sustaining the high standards and maintaining sustained partnerships with Governments, development partners and communities contextualizing the modus operandi in PICs.

Nauru

2017

- Ten countries have improved knowledge of climate related insurance through a Regional Dialogue on Financial Management of Climate Risks. These countries are Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

2019

- While risks are always omnipresent and mandates that taxpayer funds are spent in a smart and sustainable manner, the small market challenges continue to challenge the viability of most projects. In this way, RESPAC is trialling out an innovative approach linking Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Nauru as one hub.
- If the building extensions for the Solomons and Kiribati Meteorological Services are completed, there is no doubt that groundwork can also begin in Nauru where the Met Services is expanding and expected to add more staff in 2020.
- In 2020, RESPAC will help Nauru, Solomon and Kiribati to upgrade their building facilities to

provide staff with more comfortable working space and have dedicated in house training resources.

- In December 2019, 3 Staff from the Kiribati Met Services, were joined by one staff from Nauru and 2 staff from the Solomon Islands Met Services for a week-long Basic Forecasting Training.

2020

- RESPAC has contributed material investments leading to the establishment of AWS networks in Tuvalu, Nauru and Tokelau, as well as the expansion of AWS Networks in PNG, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Fiji, Vanuatu. Tonga and Niue have also been supported as elaborated below.
- Procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE) for Nauru: The Nauru National Emergency Services have been supported with personal protective equipment (PPE) consisting of gloves, sanitizers and masks to strengthen preparedness and response for COVID-19 outbreak for the first responders.
- In the last 6 months communications and visibility was provided to the following events: Handing over of Personal Protective equipment boosting Nauru COVID-19 preparations.

Niue

2017

- Ten countries have improved knowledge of climate related insurance through a Regional Dialogue on Financial Management of Climate Risks. These countries are Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.
- Niue DRM Capacity Assessment: The objective of the mission was to ascertain the training and equipment needs for the metrological service and Emergency Services (who also house the Disaster Management Unit). Interviews and site visits were conducted with the Met Service, Police, DMO, Chamber of Commerce, Environment and Project Management Unit. A brief assessment of the resilience of existing buildings both private and Government owned, was also conducted. This assessment contributed to Niue's concept note for GCF funding application. The mission resulted primarily in a list of needs and interventions where RESPAC will be able to contribute over the life of the project, comprising of potential procurement of equipment for emergency communications, business continuity planning and traditional climate knowledge. In an effort to compliment and coordinate with the timing of other projects in Niue, RESPAC will be working closely with other UNDP and SPC projects. After consultation the first priority for Niue is to procure and install additional equipment for the Met Service located at Hunnan Airport. This procurement is expected to be complete by April 2018.

2018

- Niue is a single atoll island with a land size of 241 square kilometres, which is about 10 times the size of Nauru but with a tenth of the population numbering at approximately 1,600 persons. The Government has requested for assistance from RESPAC on the funding of a ceilometer and a visibility sensor to be mounted on the aviation AWS in Alofi, the capital and the location of Niue's airport in line with aviation requirements. It is expected that in addition to providing the most reliable and up to date climate data, the aviation industry will be assisted with the most accurate information to assist

with landing and take-off.

2019

- RESPAC in collaboration with Tonga National Met Services, local communities and Ministry of Education are working together to document surviving traditional knowledge used for forecasting and attempt to produce an integrated forecast which uses both validated traditional knowledge and scientific data. The traditional knowledge collected will also be used as a tool for communicating climate messages to local communities and resource material for school curriculum. The Australian Government through the Climate and Oceans Support Programme in the Pacific (COSPPac) is doing similar work with Vanuatu, Samoa, Niue and Solomon Island Met Services and we do work in collaboration.

2020

- (Component 1 Update) RESPAC has contributed material investments leading to the establishment of AWS networks in Tuvalu, Nauru and Tokelau, as well as the expansion of AWS Networks in PNG, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Fiji, Vanuatu. Tonga and Niue have also been supported as elaborated below.

Palau

2017

- Ten countries have improved knowledge of climate related insurance through a Regional Dialogue on Financial Management of Climate Risks. These countries are Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

2018

- Under Component 2 of RESPAC, activities that RESPAC conducted included providing support to the Kingdom of Tonga and to Vanuatu in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Gita) and the Ambae Volcanic eruptions respectively. Technical assistance was mobilized and deployed to both countries and funding resources in the amount of USD200,000 was also raised. The project provided early recovery training in Micronesia and Palau.
- Participants' knowledge on early recovery and understanding on role of UNDP in early recovery were strengthened through the Early Recovery trainings conducted in Palau, Pohnpei and Kosrae. Participants were able to design indicative early recovery approaches and activities that will support long term recovery from disasters.

2020

- Over the course of the 3 years, RESPAC has taken a more prudent approach and ensured that there were substantial benefits for most of the countries. Hence with the exception of Samoa, and the 3 Northern Pacific Countries (Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and Republic of Marshall Islands), RESPAC has contributed material investments leading to the establishment of AWS networks in Tuvalu, Nauru and Tokelau, as well as the expansion of AWS Networks in PNG, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Fiji, Vanuatu.
- PDNA/DRF Training for Palau: The project staff also facilitated PDNA and DRF trainings for the Northern Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction project in Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia

(FSM) scheduled for the initial consecutive weeks of February 2020. 36 participants attended the training from the various Palau Departments/Bureaus, however, the FSM did not eventuate given the advent of COVID-19 travel restrictions.

- Despite these pre-conditions, RESPAC team was able to leverage additional funding to complement the project scope, coverage and improve the greater functionality of the UNDP Pacific Office. As at June end 2020, the additional funding has summed to US\$26.22 million, including: Japan Supplementary Budget funding for the North Pacific (FSM, Palau & RMI)-US\$22.5 million.

Papua New Guinea

2017

- Ten countries have improved knowledge of climate related insurance through a Regional Dialogue on Financial Management of Climate Risks. These countries are Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

2018

- RESPAC supported Papua New Guinea with in-country technical expertise and supported resource mobilisation for (early) recovery work, following the earthquake in the Southern Highlands early this year, that affected more than 500,000 people.
- In 2018, the PNG National Weather Services (NWS), received a grant of USD0.3 million to upgrade its A WS network and associated infrastructure including computer (IT) equipment and software licenses. This grant was placed under the management of the UNDP PNG Country Office who in turn are responsible to carry out procurement, make financial disbursements and process other requests in support of the NWS. Given the vast size of PNG, moving goods and services across the entire breadth and span of the country is a logistical challenge and UNDP has recently assisted with a flood early warning system in Morobae and Lae provinces. Some delays have been caused by the earthquake that diverted logistical support required. Funding provided under the RESPAC project were intended to improve climate reporting from the following sites: Procurement of two new A WS for Chimbu and Telefomin. Both A WS have been procured and installed. The A WS intended for Telefomin was installed at the NWS headquarters in Port Moresby. Upgrades of A WS purchased from Vaisala at sites which include NWS Headquarters in Port Moresby, Tanbul AWS, Misima Island AWS, Aiyura AWS (NARI), Siassi AWS (Por Island).
- While the overall improvement in forecasting for the entire Pacific region is calculated at 1%, for countries like Kiribati and Tonga the overall improvement is 50% and 20% respectively as the number of qualified forecasters for these countries are limited compared to other neighbouring states like Fiji or PNG. Hence the support under RESPAC has been critical particularly to the smaller countries and the impact will be very significant with the increase in qualified forecasters joining the workforce.
- In 2019, the company [Fiji Care] will try to diversify its products and is looking at the Pacific as a whole although countries such as Vanuatu, PNG, Samoa are more attractive markets for expansion due to consumer awareness and potential for local partnership.

2019

- The PICAP team started their second mission in the Pacific from 29th September 2019. The first stakeholder workshop was conducted in Suva on 1st October 2019, followed by a workshop in Samoa on 3rd October 2019, in Solomon Islands during the 9th October 2019 and the last stakeholder meeting for the Pacific mission was conducted in PNG on 15th October 2019 with participants present from private institutions, government departments and donor agencies.

2020

- At the beginning of the RESPAC project, the initiation phase, the project was requested to come up with a priority list of 3 countries where RESPAC would provide support to establish or strengthen existing climate early warning capacity. The 3 countries identified were PNG, Kiribati and Solomon Islands.
- RESPAC has contributed material investments leading to the establishment of AWS networks in Tuvalu, Nauru and Tokelau, as well as the expansion of AWS Networks in PNG, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Fiji, Vanuatu. Tonga and Niue have also been supported as elaborated below.
- (Investment support for Met Offices for new AWS procurement, data archival, storage and retrieval systems) Further, Kiribati, Nauru and SI have been earmarked to receive funding to support the expansion of their existing offices and PNG will be supported to establish a fibre optic link to boost internet speed at the National Flood Forecasting Centre.

Republic of the Marshall Islands

2017

- The Republic of Marshall Islands Country Preparedness Plan (CPP) was produced and for Tuvalu and Cook Islands are being finalized and detail the specific national disaster management arrangements in the countries with their specific strengths and weaknesses as well as the linkages to regional and international support structures.
- A Country Preparedness Package for Republic of Marshall Islands has been completed whereas for Cook Islands and Tuvalu are in drafts.
- RESPAC has provided extensive support to the delivery of Country Preparedness Packages (CPPs) in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Cook Islands and Tuvalu. CPPs are a PHT preparedness initiative to strengthen collaboration between national and international actors during a disaster response.
- To date, RESPAC has delivered (in tandem with UNOCHA) a completed CPP for the Republic of the Marshall Islands (see: <http://reliefweb.int/node/2173729>), drafted CPP for the Cook Islands and Tuvalu.

2018

- In collaboration with the World Bank, European Union and Pacific Community (SPC) a regional PDNA and DRF training was conducted from 9-13 April in Suva, Fiji. The PICSthat participated include Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.
- To date the project has supported 3 CPPs including Republic of Marshall Islands and Tuvalu. The Tuvalu CPP is being finalised and will be published mid-October.

2020

- Over the course of the 3 years, RESPAC has taken a more prudent approach and ensured that there were substantial benefits for most of the countries. Hence with the exception of Samoa, and the 3 Northern Pacific Countries (Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and Republic of Marshall Islands), RESPAC has contributed material investments leading to the establishment of AWS networks in

Tuvalu, Nauru and Tokelau, as well as the expansion of AWS Networks in PNG, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Fiji, Vanuatu.

- TC Harold PDNA/Recovery Framework co-ordination support(remote) for Vanuatu. [footnote] Similar requests have been received from Tonga and the Republic of Marshall Islands; however, talks are still underway with the respective Governments in collaboration with The Pacific Community (SPC: a large regional organization with a decades long history of Disaster and Risk expertise).

Samoa

2017

- Ten countries have improved knowledge of climate related insurance through a Regional Dialogue on Financial Management of Climate Risks. These countries are Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.
- For Output indicator 1.1 the target is to establish 2 national meteorology services – sector working groups to support early warning and climate monitoring capacity. The Vanuatu working group has been established. The project is working towards the establishment of the Fiji and Samoa working groups.
- A field trip involving climate scientists and health officials from Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu visited Solomon Islands in May to study how the latter used the MalaClim model to predict the outbreak of malaria.
- In Fiji and Samoa, there are previous examples of Met-Health sectors collaborating to establish working groups however, these efforts were stalled due to the completion of projects that provided funding.
- The 3rd Annual Pacific Island Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF) was held in Samoa in October.
- Samoa – Evaluation of DRR Training Packages: The Disaster Management Office has requested UNDP to review three key training packages designed to mainstream Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Risk Management. The Community Disaster and Climate Risk Management (CDCRM) training package was developed in 2011 and implemented since 2013. Covering 336 villages CDCRM program has been delivered to 56 villages since 2014. Similar training packages have been developed for the education sector, “Teacher’s Toolkit” and government sectors “Response Agencies Toolkit”. Both toolkits have faced difficulty in mainstreaming the content into their respective sectors. The objective of the evaluations is to formulate and improvements on efficiency, delivery and mainstreaming of the packages.
The activity is expected to be complete by Feb 2018. It is hoped that through this evaluation, a comprehensive mainstreaming project with the Global Preparedness Partnership in 2018 -2019 will be prepared.
- Samoa: Disaster Management Office Exchange: In June, Samoa’s director of the Disaster Management Office Ms Filomena Nelson took part in an exchange with the UNDP office in Jakarta, Indonesia. The following initiatives were presented, lessons learnt shared, and disseminated in Samoa.
 - Sister Village (SV) -The sister village program concept is community based IDP management where villages that are prone to disasters will self-evacuate to safer villages as buffer villages.
 - Village Information System (VIS) - VIS was designed as a data preparedness system in

web-based disaster management at village level.

- Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Convergence Framework
- Disaster management into national development priorities
- Indonesia Disaster Fund Facility (IDF)
- Minimum Service Standard in Disaster Management
- Samoa – Insurance Focus Group: In collaboration with the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP) UNDP hosted a focus group in Apia, 29 June 2017 to explore the potential for personal insurance in Samoa. Two focus groups were consulted one with employers and business owners the other with wage earners, and general public. The results of this focus group will contribute to the development of pilot insurance products in Samoa in 2018. Looking forward the products will be rolled out across the region.
- Samoa – Private Sector Partnership Preparedness Day: The Private Sector Preparedness Partnership day, the focus of Samoa's International Day for Disaster Reduction, funded through RESPAC was held on 30 Oct. The event comprising the opening of Environment Week, hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, a workshop for the private sector on disaster preparedness and the official signing of an MOU between the Disaster Management Office and the Samoa Chamber of Commerce.

2018

- As a direct result of the TOT, Samoa conducted the first water and sanitation sector PDNA and DRF workshop for the infrastructure sector in country, and without outside support. Twenty participants attended the training. The facilitators for the workshop were Ms. Ruth Ueselani (Sector Coordinator Water and Sanitation Sector) and Mr. Lepale Aussie Simanu (Principal Officer- Disaster Management Office).
- In 2019, the company will try to diversify its products and is looking at the Pacific as a whole although countries such as Vanuatu, PNG, Samoa are more attractive markets for expansion due to consumer awareness and potential for local partnership.

2019

- RESPAC in collaboration with Tonga National Met Services, local communities and Ministry of Education are working together to document surviving traditional knowledge used for forecasting and attempt to produce and integrated forecast which uses both validated traditional knowledge and scientific data. The traditional knowledge collected will also be used as a tool for communicating climate messages to local communities and resource material for school curriculum. The Australian Government through the Climate and Oceans Support Programme in the Pacific (COSPPac) is doing similar work with Vanuatu, Samoa, Niue and Solomon island Met Services and we do work in collaboration.
- The Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) during its fifth meeting in Apia, Samoa on 9 August 2019 noted the progress on the Regional Training Centre Feasibility Study. The PMC noted the great progress made since the PMC 4 and the work carried out through RESPAC in terms of addressing the issue of feasibility of the RTC for the Pacific.
- The PICAP team started their second mission in the Pacific from 29th September 2019. The first stakeholder workshop was conducted in Suva on 1st October 2019, followed by a workshop in Samoa on 3rd October 2019.

2020

- Over the course of the 3 years, RESPAC has taken a more prudent approach and ensured that there were substantial benefits for most of the countries. Hence with the exception of Samoa, and the 3 Northern Pacific Countries (Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and Republic of Marshall Islands), RESPAC has contributed material investments leading to the establishment of AWS networks in Tuvalu, Nauru and Tokelau, as well as the expansion of AWS Networks in PNG, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Fiji, Vanuatu.
- Following on from the Pacific Meteorological Council Meeting in Apia, Samoa, RESPAC has allocated funding for Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), University of the South Pacific (USP) and the Fiji Met Services to pursue the establishment of the Pacific Regional Training Centre accredited with World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Solomon Islands

2017

- Capacities of regional experts in post disaster recovery were enhanced through a post disaster needs assessment training. Ten countries have improved knowledge of climate related insurance through a Regional Dialogue on Financial Management of Climate Risks. These countries are Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.
- Four countries including Vanuatu, Kiribati, Solomon and Tonga with national meteorology officers have improved climate early warning and monitoring capacity. Forty-nine males (Vanuatu-47, Solomon-1, Tonga -1) and 22 females (Vanuatu-20, Kiribati-2) were trained.
- Under Output indicator 1.2 four countries (Kiribati, Solomon, Tonga & Vanuatu have improved climate early warning system and monitoring capacity. There was no procurement for equipment to improve PICTs technical capacity in climate early warning systems. For output indicator 2.1 one Fiji male regional expert on post disaster recovery has improved capacity as part of South-South cooperation with the Solomon Islands.
- Preparation of country profiles for each of the 15 National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs): These profiles will help to identify country specific needs and analysis of gaps as well as focusing on the overall capacity of the NMHSs. 2 profiles (Vanuatu and Solomon Islands) have been drafted
- Collaboration with the FMS and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA): 3 NMHS have improved capacity with the training of their newly recruited and uncertified technicians. In this matter, RESPAC sponsored two female officers from Kiribati and 2 male officers, one each from the Solomon Islands and Tonga to attend the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) standard regional training titled Basic Instruction Package for Meteorological Technicians (BIP-MT) at the FMS training center.
- In the Solomon Islands, the training has enabled the NMHS to fulfil the WMO competency standard requirements particularly for new recruits to undertake induction courses. It also allows Mr. Petsy Seka to be an accredited climate officer.
- A field trip involving climate scientists and health officials from Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu visited Solomon Islands in May to study how the latter used the MalaClim model to predict the outbreak of malaria.

- Improving regional expert capacity in Post Disaster Recovery as part of South to South Cooperation: Under the project, a Fijian expert in early recovery and Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) supported earthquake recovery in the Solomon Islands, leading the formulation of an Earthquake Recovery Plan, subsequently endorsed by Cabinet.

2018

- In collaboration with the World Bank, European Union and Pacific Community (SPC) a regional PDNA and DRF training was conducted from 9-13 April in Suva, Fiji. The PICs that participated include Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga

2019

- In December 2019, 3 Staff from the Kiribati Met Services, were joined by one staff from Nauru and 2 staff from the Solomon Islands Met Services for a week-long Basic Forecasting Training (at FMS).
- In June and November respectively, 3 officers from Solomons Met and Fiji Met attended training with Australian Quality Management Training Authority and the New Zealand counterpart respectively. Mr. Harish Pratap and Mr. Esiki Tukana undertook the NZ training and Mr. Solomon Sammy from SIMS was trained in Australia Installation of 5 AWS stations at Agriculture Research Stations and 1 AWS for Henderson International Airport
- The traditional knowledge collected will also be used as a tool for communicating climate messages to local communities and resource material for school curriculum. The Australian Government through the Climate and Oceans Support Programme in the Pacific (COSPPac) is doing similar work with Vanuatu, Samoa, Niue and Solomon island Met Services and we do work in collaboration.
- The project supported a one-week training in the Solomon Islands which brought together over thirty (30) participants from key ministries including eight women, trained to calculate economic and social costs of disasters, inform recovery strategies and assist in prioritizing reconstruction and recovery of the physical and social structures of disaster affected communities.
- In 2018, RESPAC in collaboration with the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP) partnered with FijiCare Insurance Limited and developed a bundled micro-insurance product. The product offers both life and non-life insurance covers. These include funeral, term life, personal accident and fire. The product was initially implemented in Fiji in 2018. For 2020 it will be expanded to Vanuatu then Solomon Islands.
- The PICAP team started their second mission in the Pacific from 29th September 2019. The first stakeholder workshop was conducted in Suva on 1st October 2019, followed by a workshop in Samoa on 3rd October 2019, in Solomon Islands during the 9th October 2019 and the last stakeholder meeting for the pacific mission was conducted in PNG on 15th October 2019 with participants present from private institutions, government departments and donor agencies.

Tokelau

2017

- The RESPAC project covers 15 countries including one territory (Tokelau).

2018

- Tokelau: The three atolls that make up the territory of Tokelau are Atafu, Nukunonu and Fakaofa. Under a New Zealand government grant, an AWS will be installed in Nukunonu, and given the distance between Nukunonu and the other two atolls, RESPAC has been requested to provide two additional AWS. This is currently in the procurement stage.

2020

- Over the course of the 3 years, RESPAC has taken a more prudent approach and ensured that there were substantial benefits for most of the countries. Hence with the exception of Samoa, and the 3 Northern Pacific Countries (Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and Republic of Marshall Islands), RESPAC has contributed material investments leading to the establishment of AWS networks in Tuvalu, Nauru and Tokelau, as well as the expansion of AWS Networks in PNG, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Fiji, Vanuatu. Tonga and Niue have also been supported as elaborated below.

Tonga

2017

- Four countries including Vanuatu, Kiribati, Solomon and Tonga with national meteorology officers have improved climate early warning and monitoring capacity. Forty-nine males (Vanuatu-47, Solomon-1, Tonga -1) and 22 females (Vanuatu-20, Kiribati-2) were trained.
- Under Output indicator 1.2 four countries (Kiribati, Solomon, Tonga & Vanuatu have improved climate early warning system and monitoring capacity.
- Collaboration with the FMS and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA): 3 NMHS have improved capacity with the training of their newly recruited and uncertified technicians. In this matter, RESPAC sponsored two female officers from Kiribati and 2 male officers, one each from the Solomon Islands and Tonga to attend the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) standard regional training titled Basic Instruction Package for Meteorological Technicians (BIP-MT) at the FMS training center.
- In Tonga, according to the Meteorological Services Director, the training assisted Lupepau'u Airport in Vava'u to gain certification of requirements for Civil Aviation (NZCAA Rules Part 174 – Certification of Meteorological Services). In relation to International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) competency, all aeronautical meteorological observations out of the Vava'u Station are now provided by certified personnel contributing to safer air operations in and out of Tonga's second international airport.
- Similarly, the training has enabled Mr. Katilimoni Fonua of Tonga to be certified as a climate officer. The training thus permits him to adequately operate the Aeronautical Meteorology Station as a qualified aeronautical meteorological observer. Furthermore, he is being promoted from an unestablished staff to permanent staff as Meteorological Technician Grade 1.
- RESPAC is in discussion stages with Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Tonga NHMS to undertake a survey of traditional knowledge in the islands of Tonga. This work may be led by SPREP as they have already started mapping traditional knowledge on climate and weather pattern, with funding support from the Government of Australia and the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), in some PSIDS. This activity will be undertaken in 2018.
- In this respect, national level PDNA and Disaster Recovery Framework (DRF) training has been delivered in Tonga and the Cook Islands, increasing national (government and non-government) awareness, understanding and practice of valuation approaches and, importantly, raising the importance of the need for improved data access and coordination to assess disaster impacts to enable full recovery from disasters.

2018

- Under Component 2 of RESPAC, activities that RESPAC conducted included providing support to the Kingdom of Tonga and to Vanuatu in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Gita) and the Ambae Volcanic eruptions respectively. Technical assistance was mobilized and deployed to both

countries and funding resources in the amount of USD200,000 was also raised.

- In February 2018, Mr. Mauna Eria, Senior Climate Officer with the Kiribati Met Services, Mr. Shivneel Narayan, Scientific Officer —Forecasting with the Fiji Met Office and Mr. Siaosi Palu, Forecaster with the Tonga Met Service commenced a nine-month Basic Instructional Package course in Meteorology (BIP-M) at the Melbourne Australia based Bureau of Meteorology Training Center.
- While the overall improvement in forecasting for the entire Pacific region is calculated at 1%, for countries like Kiribati and Tonga the overall improvement is 50% and 20% respectively as the number of qualified forecasters for these countries are limited compared to other neighbouring states like Fiji or PNG.
- In collaboration with the World Bank, European Union and Pacific Community (SPC) a regional PDNA and DRF training was conducted from 9-13 April in Suva, Fiji. The PICS that participated include Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.
- Capacities of regional and national experts in early recovery planning and coordination were strengthened through South - South Cooperation (SSC) and knowledge exchange. Fijian and Solomon's experts were mobilised to support Tonga on TC Gita early recovery and planning. Achievements from this SSC include harnessing of experts' skills and knowledge, early recovery planning and coordination knowledge transfer to Tongan officials and production of a draft Disaster Recovery Framework.
- Also, in emergency situations, staff from Fiji Met can be deployed to support restoration work to ensure that the network of AWS is replotting without interruptions in addition to taking over Met tasks as has happened during TC Gita in Tonga when FMS took over the last few bulletins.

2019

- RESPAC in collaboration with Tonga National Met Services, local communities and Ministry of Education are working together to document surviving traditional knowledge used for forecasting and attempt to produce and integrated forecast which uses both validated traditional knowledge and scientific data.
- This project [PICAP] commenced after discussions between PFIP and RESPAC in 2018 and an additional RESPAC funding element was secured. A technical team was engaged from the MCII in Bonn, and the team assisted PFIP in planning the project. A series of stakeholder engagement meetings took place during February in Tonga, Vanuatu and Fiji, by a joint MCII and PFIP team.

2020

- RESPAC has contributed material investments leading to the establishment of AWS networks in Tuvalu, Nauru and Tokelau, as well as the expansion of AWS Networks in PNG, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Fiji, Vanuatu. Tonga and Niue have also been supported as elaborated below.

- Support to Tonga Met for Traditional Knowledge: In the first half of 2020, RESPAC fielded a request from the Tonga Met Service to support the collection of traditional knowledge in all outer islands, i.e., outside of the Tongatapu Island. The intention is to send 4 teams of 8 officers each to the islands of Hapaii, Euaa, Vavau and Niuatoputapu to collect and record traditional knowledge of weather prediction and resilience measures which the islanders have been using through their ancestors and needs documentation. This activity was delayed by COVID 19 hence expected to commence and complete by August 2020.
- Tropical Cyclone (TC) Sino/Sarai/Harold co-ordination support (remote) for Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu: This work requires co-ordinating response/recovery with the six countries. Since the advent COVID-19 travel restrictions imposed regionally, a lot of this work has been undertaken remotely from the office.
- Currently, PERF is supporting Vanuatu Ambae Volcano Recovery as well as TC Harold Recovery for Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, Kiribati and Tuvalu.
- The Tonga PERF is implemented in collaboration with MORDI (Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovation) Tonga Trust is implementing agriculture and livelihood activities for communities to recover social-economically. RESPAC will also be working with MORDI Tonga Trust using the PERF intervention as a Crowdfunding Project (PERF project) in collaboration with UNDP Alt Fin Lab¹⁰.
- UNDP has secured \$600,000 from its internal TRAC resources for TC Harold programmatic and co-ordination intervention for Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.
- The advent of COVID-19 has restricted mobility and altered human interaction with our stakeholders across PICs. For RESPAC, Low Value Grant (LVG) Agreements, Letter of Agreements have been signed with Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu without in-country verification by our experts.
- TC Harold PDNA/Recovery Framework co-ordination support(remote) for Vanuatu. [footnote] Similar requests have been received from Tonga and the Republic of Marshall Islands; however, talks are still underway with the respective Governments in collaboration with The Pacific Community (SPC: a large regional organization with a decades long history of Disaster and Risk expertise).

Tuvalu

2017

- Ten countries have improved knowledge of climate related insurance through a Regional Dialogue on Financial Management of Climate Risks. These countries are Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.
- The Republic of Marshall Islands Country Preparedness Plan (CPP) was produced and for Tuvalu and Cook Islands are being finalized and detail the specific national disaster management arrangements in the countries with their specific strengths and weaknesses as well as the linkages to regional and international support structures.
- A Country Preparedness Package for Republic of Marshall Islands has been completed whereas for Cook Islands and Tuvalu are in drafts.
- RESPAC has provided extensive support to the delivery of Country Preparedness Packages (CPPs) in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Cook Islands and Tuvalu. CPPs are a PHT preparedness initiative to strengthen collaboration between national and international actors during a disaster response.

¹⁰ UNDP Office responsible for Private Sector Innovation based in Istanbul, Turkey.

- To date, RESPAC has delivered (in tandem with UNOCHA) a completed CPP for the Republic of the Marshall Islands (see: <http://reliefweb.int/node/2173729>), drafted CPP for the Cook Islands and Tuvalu.
- The Pacific Regional Dialogue on the Financial Management of Climate Risks was held in Apia June 26-28. Requested by Tuvalu, this workshop was co funded by DFAT Australian Aid and RESPAC.

2018

- To date the project has supported 3 CPPs including Republic of Marshall Islands and Tuvalu. The Tuvalu CPP is being finalised and will be published mid-October.

2019

- UNDP RESPAC was asked to fund the Disaster Managers and 4 countries, namely Fiji, Tuvalu, Kiribati and Vanuatu, and will make attempts to ensure that the groundwork to support Impact Based Forecasting is carried out in 2020.

2020

- RESPAC has contributed material investments leading to the establishment of AWS networks in Tuvalu, Nauru and Tokelau, as well as the expansion of AWS Networks in PNG, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Fiji, Vanuatu.
- RESPAC continues assisting Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Island (SI), Tuvalu and Kiribati in data storage and archiving.
- For 2020, Tuvalu has also requested some support to conduct its first NCOF and RESPAC will technically and financially support this activity.
- Tropical Cyclone (TC) Sino/Sarai/Harold co-ordination support (remote) for Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu: This work requires co-ordinating response/recovery with the six countries. Since the advent COVID-19 travel restrictions imposed regionally, a lot of this work has been undertaken remotely from the office.
- Currently, PERF is supporting Vanuatu Ambae Volcano Recovery as well as TC Harold Recovery for Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, Kiribati and Tuvalu
- The intervention entails procurement of emergency telecommunication equipment for recovery co-ordination for Tuvalu NDMO and related Agencies.
- The advent of COVID-19 has restricted mobility and altered human interaction with our stakeholders across PICs. For RESPAC, Low Value Grant (LVG) Agreements, Letter of Agreements have been signed with Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu without in-country verification by our experts.

Vanuatu

2017

- In terms of national interventions, 1 sector-national meteorological service working group was established between the Vanuatu Ministry of Health and the Meteorology Department. Four countries including Vanuatu, Kiribati, Solomon and Tonga with national meteorology officers

have improved climate early warning and monitoring capacity. Forty-nine males (Vanuatu-47, Solomon-1, Tonga -1) and 22 females (Vanuatu-20, Kiribati-2) were trained.

- Although the project delivery is progressing slowly, it is on track to be completed within its design lifespan. For Output indicator 1.1 the target is to establish 2 national meteorology services – sector working groups to support early warning and climate monitoring capacity. The Vanuatu working group has been established.
- Under Output indicator 1.2 four countries (Kiribati, Solomon, Tonga & Vanuatu) have improved climate early warning system and monitoring capacity.
- Preparation of country profiles for each of the 15 National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs): These profiles will help to identify country specific needs and analysis of gaps as well as focusing on the overall capacity of the NMHSs. 2 profiles (Vanuatu and Solomon Islands) have been drafted. However, considerable updates will be required before each profile can be finalized. Once completed, the profiles will provide an overview of the technical, operational, and budgetary capacity of each NMHS in the PSIDS.
- Training of technicians on maintenance of Automated Weather Systems (AWS): Theoretical knowledge of Vanuatu Meteorology Service technicians to operate infrastructure and information systems was enhanced, complemented by ‘hands-on’ operational competencies that are specific to Vanuatu national systems, staff capacity, infrastructure and procedures. The training provided for Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department (VMGD) technical staff has been guided by the *Vanuatu Climate Networks and Operational Services: Workbook for Operational Competencies*, developed by NIWA. The major areas of concern that limit the uptake of this activity at the national level are: i) the lack of pre-requisite skills primarily amongst those responsible for maintenance and operations of equipment; ii) Limited national budget to support travel, high costs of travel and large geographical coverage; iii) minimal number of trained technicians within the NMHS with the technical capacity to receive this training.
- A field trip involving climate scientists and health officials from Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu visited Solomon Islands in May to study how the latter used the MalaClim model to predict the outbreak of malaria.
- In Fiji and Samoa, there are previous examples of Met-Health sectors collaborating to establish working groups however, these efforts were stalled due to the completion of projects that provided funding. With RESPAC support, these efforts are now being revived and in Vanuatu, both the Health and the Meteorology Departments have recently signed a data sharing agreement (see press release, as per Annex 2) to improve the tracking of climate related diseases and build early warning capacity.
- A concept note for an emergency fund to assist efforts in early recovery has been developed. It has been presented to PICs and development partners during the 3rd Board meeting held in Vanuatu for validating its feasibility. It was well received and is now further being developed.

2018

- Under Component 2 of RESPAC, activities that RESPAC conducted included providing support to the Kingdom of Tonga and to Vanuatu in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Gita) and the Ambae Volcanic eruptions respectively. Technical assistance was mobilized and deployed to both countries and funding resources in the amount of USD200,000 was also raised.
- In 2019, the company will try to diversify its products and is looking at the Pacific as a whole although countries such as Vanuatu, PNG, Samoa are more attractive markets for expansion due to consumer awareness and potential for local partnership.
- In collaboration with the World Bank, European Union and Pacific Community (SPC) a regional PDNA and DRF training was conducted from 9-13 April in Suva, Fiji. The PICs that participated

include Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

- The capacity to establish disaster preparedness and post disaster recovery of Vanuatu government and NGO officials were strengthened following the PDNA and DRF training held from 23-26 April. This was conducted in collaboration with the two trainers that had just participated in the Regional PDNA TOT. Twenty-six (9 females and 17 males) officers learned how to determine economic and social costs of disasters. The Vanuatu government has requested UNDP for a technical assistance to adapt the PDNA methodology into their national disaster assessment tools. This activity will be supported in the 2019 workplan.

2019

- Strategic efforts will be done in 2020 to ensure media and visibility coverage is also part of deliverables from partners. For instance, discussions are underway with Communications officer, Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination Prime Minister's Office Port Vila, Vanuatu Ms Frida Sam on expected communications outcomes for the disbursements of fund for the Ambae Volcano Early recovery and rebuilding efforts.
- Under the Output 2, the release of USD210K for the Ambae evacuees in Vanuatu was the first grant disbursed under the Pacific Early Recovery Funds (PERF) modality. Work is progressing well in the adopted communities outside of Luganville, Santo and more reporting on this ground-breaking initiative will be provided in 2020.
- UNDP RESPAC was asked to fund the Disaster Managers and 4 countries, namely Fiji, Tuvalu, Kiribati and Vanuatu, and will make attempts to ensure that the groundwork to support Impact Based Forecasting is carried out in 2020.
- In October 2019, Mr. Abel Kalo and Ms. Glenda Pakoa, Climate Division Staff within the Vanuatu Meteorological and GeoHazards Division (VMGD) were attached with the Climate Division of the FMS to improve their knowledge and skills on CLiDE. In between these 2 attachments, Mr. Atish Kumar, Senior Technical Officer with the FMS visited Vanuatu to assist the VMGD staff with their CLiDE and data digitization needs.
- Linua Airport, located in the island of Loh, in the province of TORBA in Vanuatu is one of the 21 sites that have been scheduled to receive brand new AWS funded under the RESPAC project. The procurement process is still underway however it is expected to be concluded in the first quarter of 2020. A team of VMGD experts will be visiting the island in January 2020 to set up the installation process but more importantly conduct discussions with the Civil Aviation Authority of Vanuatu who are the custodians of the land on which the AWS will be installed.
- RESPAC in collaboration with Tonga National Met Services, local communities and Ministry of Education are working together to document surviving traditional knowledge used for forecasting and attempt to produce and integrated forecast which uses both validated traditional knowledge and scientific data. The traditional knowledge collected will also be used as a tool for communicating climate messages to local communities and resource material for school curriculum. The Australian Government through the Climate and Oceans Support Programme in the Pacific (COSPPac) is doing similar work with Vanuatu, Samoa, Niue and Solomon island Met Services and we do work in collaboration.
- The Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD) and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) co-organised the third National Climate Outlook Forum (NCOF-3). RESPAC, in collaboration with the Government of Vanuatu, VMGD, Green Climate Fund (GCF), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen blong Redy, Adapt mo Protekt (Van-KIRAP) project supported NCOF-3.

- The Second Political Advisor to the Minister of Climate Change and Meteorology, Reginald Garaleo said in his official opening remarks that “The National Climate Outlook Forum brings stakeholders together, seeking societal outcomes associated with natural hazards, climate extremes and change.” “NCOFs links the information generated by VMGD with stakeholder’s decision-making processes to improve the application of climate information, particularly climate information - without climate services there is no decision making.” The target audience includes farmers representing six provinces of Vanuatu, community representatives/members of the Vanuatu Rainfall Network (VRN), government officials of each sector responsible for agriculture and food security, technical directorates from SPREP and UNDP as well as climate officers from Vanuatu and Fiji Meteorological Services. The NCOF-3 also marked the release of the Vanuatu National Tropical Cyclone Outlook for the upcoming tropical cyclone season 2019/20; review of the climate information services, agriculture sector communication plan; and consensus reached on process for the development of Agrometeorology bulletin to support local farmers.
- RESPAC is also working with the Government of Vanuatu to designate the Department of Policy Planning and Aid Coordination as the National Recovery Agency.
- In 2018, RESPAC in collaboration with the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP) partnered with FijiCare Insurance Limited and developed a bundled micro-insurance product... The product was initially implemented in Fiji in 2018. For 2020 it will be expanded to Vanuatu then Solomon Islands.
- [Insurance] Vanuatu - The product will be sold primarily via the private sector, boosting the resilience of employees and their ability to cope with a range of events that may cause financial shocks.
- [PICAP] A series of stakeholder engagement meetings took place during February in Tonga, Vanuatu and Fiji, by a joint MCII and PFIP team.
- After continuous stakeholder engagements, it was determined that the inception phase of the PICAP programme would focus on Fiji and Vanuatu for the first 2 years.
- As initial project, RESPAC has signed a LOA with the Vanuatu Government Department of Strategic Planning, Policy and Aid Co-ordination (DSPPAC), \$211,000 to implement the Ambae Volcano recovery plan. The first tranche of payment has been released and full implementation is expected to be completed in quarter 1 of 2020.

2020

- RESPAC has contributed material investments leading to the establishment of AWS networks in Tuvalu, Nauru and Tokelau, as well as the expansion of AWS Networks in PNG, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Fiji, Vanuatu.
- RESPAC continues assisting Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Island (SI), Tuvalu and Kiribati in data storage and archiving.
- RESPAC supported 2 strategic planning workshops for the Vanuatu Meteorological Geohazards Division and the Fiji Met Services in the first quarter... In Vanuatu, there were 12 participants of which 8 were males and 4 females.
- UNDP has supported the regional Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF) from 2016 – 2018 and subsequently National Climate Outlook Fora (NCOF) in Fiji and Vanuatu to establish their National Climate Outlook Forums.

- Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)/Disaster Recovery Framework (DRF) Training for Vanuatu Government Officials: In February, PDNA and DRF training was conducted in Vanuatu. Thirty-five (35) participants (12F/23M) attended the training from various government Departments. Departments including Strategic Planning & Aid-Co-ordination, Health, Agriculture & Livestock, Environment/Climate Change/Disaster Management & Meteorology, NDMO, Women/Youth/Children & Family Affairs, Provincial Office, Office of the Government Chief Information Office. With the knowledge gained, Vanuatu government are conducting PDNA for tropical cyclone Harold; whilst UNDP and other development partners is adding value through daily remote technical support and through data verification and validation.
- Tropical Cyclone (TC) Sino/Sarai/Harold co-ordination support (remote) for Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu: This work requires co-ordinating response/recovery with the six countries. Since the advent COVID-19 travel restrictions imposed regionally, a lot of this work has been undertaken remotely from the office.
- TC Harold PDNA/Recovery Framework co-ordination support(remote) for Vanuatu: RESPAC is providing co-ordinating support to the Government of Vanuatu Department of Strategic Policy Planning & Aid Coordination (DSPPAC) Recovery Operations Centre (ROC) on the conduct of the TC Harold PDNA and the Recovery Framework.
- For Component 3 “the increased use of financial instruments to manage and share disaster related risk and fund post disaster recovery efforts”, the following activity results were achieved; the PFIP commenced consultation in Vanuatu with the both Government and private sector to roll out the micro bundled insurance.
- Currently, PERF is supporting Vanuatu Ambae Volcano Recovery as well as TC Harold Recovery for Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, Kiribati and Tuvalu.
- Vanuatu PERF is supporting recovery efforts for the Ambae volcanic eruptions. RESPAC in partnership with the Government of Vanuatu Department of Strategic Policy Planning & Aid Coordination (DSPPAC) is supporting the Recovery Operations Centre (ROC) co-ordination and planning. It also supported the Vanuatu Meteorology with replacement of AWS damaged by TC Harold.
- UNDP has secured \$600,000 from its internal TRAC resources for TC Harold programmatic and co-ordination intervention for Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.
- The advent of COVID-19 has restricted mobility and altered human interaction with our stakeholders across PICs. For RESPAC, Low Value Grant (LVG) Agreements, Letter of Agreements have been signed with Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu without in-country verification by our experts.

Annex F: NDMO Directors' Statement of Intent for COVID-19

STATEMENT OF INTENT – COVID 19

The NDMO Directors of the Pacific countries are aware of the worldwide impact of COVID-19. COVID-19 declared by WHO as a pandemic is considered a biological hazard affecting the social, cultural and economic dynamics in all countries, prompting the activation of emergency operations procedures defined at country and regional level. Global risk assessment on COVID-19 has been declared as very high alert status, it is only appropriate to take definitive steps in mapping out clear strategies for our shared future.

Being mindful of the wide-ranging COVID-19 implications on government machinery, industry, livelihoods, culture, traditions and households, there is urgency to be vigilant about individual safety, well-being and stability of lives of the public at large in our communities.

At the UNDP Disaster Resilience for Pacific SIDS(RESPEC) 5th Project Board meeting held at the Pearl South Pacific Resort, Pacific Harbour, Fiji on the 18th of March 2020, in the margins of our deliberation, we, the NDMO Directors are committed to:

- Activate the national emergency response coordination committees as well as the sector working groups/clusters in order to promote a coherent and effective multisector interventions.
- Working together with the Ministries of Health in assessing the humanitarian needs and collectively prepare a response plan to cope with the potential impact of the COVID-19.
- Support the dissemination of user-friendly messaging to all population tailored to their culture and language.
- Enhance active and permanent channels of communication and information sharing between the national disaster/emergency management offices within the Pacific region for informed decision making.
- Working with the Joint Incident Management Teams (JIMT) for COVID-19 established by the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) for information exchange, deployment of Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) and promote resource sharing particularly COVID-19 testing of suspected case and supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) when there is availability.
- Working with the Private Sector through the Chamber of Commerce to avoid business disruption, continuity of supply-chain logistics and early mitigating interventions for key sectors driving economic activity across the region.
- Place emphasis on BOE Declaration Strategic Focus Area 2: Human Security and Humanitarian Assistance given the heightened vulnerability of our region to the impacts of increasing frequency and intensity of weather-related hazards and the need to improve coordination and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance/disaster response.
- Reiterating the WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19 on the 16th March 2020, " We have a simple message for all countries: **test, test, test**. Test every suspected case".

We are confident that by working together, we would be able to restrain the spread of the COVID 19 in the region. This statement of intent was adopted in the spirit of regionalism being cognisant of the seven recommendations of the 'Bangkok Principles for the International Conference on the Implementation of the Health Aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030(see *Annex I*).

Annex 1

The seven recommendations of the ‘Bangkok Principles for the International Conference on the Implementation of the Health Aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030’ are as follows:

1. Promote systematic integration of health into national and sub-national disaster risk reduction policies and plans and the inclusion of emergency and disaster risk management programmes in national and sub-national health strategies.
2. Enhance cooperation between health authorities and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen country capacity for disaster risk management for health, the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) and building of resilient health systems.
3. Stimulate people-centred public and private investment in emergency and disaster risk reduction, including in health facilities and infrastructure.
4. Integrate disaster risk reduction into health education and training and strengthen capacity building of health workers in disaster risk reduction.
5. Incorporate disaster-related mortality, morbidity and disability data into multi-hazards early warning system, health core indicators and national risk assessments
6. Advocate for, and support cross-sectoral, transboundary collaboration including information sharing, and science and technology for all hazards, including biological hazards.
7. Promote coherence and further development of local and national policies and strategies, legal frameworks, regulations, and institutional arrangements.

https://www.preventionweb.net/files/47606_bangkokprinciplesonhealthriskagreed.pdf

[ends]