

Concept Note

Title	Pacific Disaster Net – new portal for Disaster Risk Management in the Pacific Region
Organisation(s):	SOPAC – in cooperation with UNDP, OCHA, IFRC for the PDRMPN
Theme:	Theme 5 – Emergency Communications and Disaster Relief / Climate Change
Speaking Duration:	15 Minutes
Background and Justification:	<p>The Pacific is a highly disaster prone region and Pacific communities continue to be exposed to risk of loss of lives, livelihoods, resources and assets that have shown to be able to greatly impact the long term development of small island countries.</p> <p>In October 2005 Pacific Island Leaders adopted the Pacific Plan. Under the <i>Security</i> pillar of the Kalibobo Roadmap for the Pacific Plan Leaders emphasised the need for the development and implementation of policies and plans for the mitigation and management of natural disasters. The Pacific Plan also endorses the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005 – 2015 (<i>Regional Framework</i>). Pacific Leaders provided separate endorsement for the Regional Framework at their October meeting in PNG.</p> <p>The Regional Framework for Action, adapted from the global Hyogo Framework for Action (January 2005), represents an effort to shift the focus of disaster management away from just response and preparedness toward an all hazard, whole of government approach to disaster management, with an emphasis on risk management and disaster reduction. In February 2006, SOPAC with the support of regional development partners, including CROP and UN agencies, IFRC, donors and other organizations, established the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network (<i>Partnership Network</i>) to facilitate this approach by endorsing two major priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting PICs in the development and implementation of DRM National Action Plans (NAP) consistent with the Regional Framework. • the development of a web-based information portal for disaster risk management (now known as the Pacific Disaster Net), providing up-to-date and readily available data <p>SOPAC, as the regional agency with the mandate for disaster risk management is the lead agency for the development of the Pacific Disaster Net and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNDP, SOPAC, IFRC and UN-OCHA in August 2006 on behalf of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network. The MOU facilitated a joint project to develop a regional information database as a web based product to house various resources aimed at strengthening disaster risk reduction and disaster management capacity in the Pacific.</p> <p>The portal provides a comprehensive overview, information and data on relevant legislation, regulations, policy, past experiences, risks, hazards, maps, best practices and actors in Pacific Island countries for planning and decision-making in all aspects of natural disaster management (encompassing risk reduction, disaster prevention and</p>

	mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery). It furthermore provides baseline information for national action plans and mainstreaming of the regional framework..
Objectives:	<p>The creation of a disaster risk management database and portal, Pacific Disaster Net, contributes to the overarching objective of mainstreaming disaster risk management into national development planning. It provides PIC's with a baseline overview that assists national and international stakeholders to identify respective and current DRM status of disaster risk management and also facilitates profiling in support of National Action Plans (NAP's).</p> <p>Pacific Disaster Net will have a positive impact on a number of the challenges by pursuing the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide an overview of available and relevant data and baseline information at the international, regional and national level, thereby enabling timely and informed decision-making and avoiding duplication in programming efforts, both for emergency response as well as for strategic development planning and disaster risk reduction, such as through the development of national action plans. • To give stakeholders easy access to information on focal persons and institutions, references, scientific data, tools, lessons learnt and best practices in disaster risk management in PIC's, for improved disaster response, disaster risk management programming and integrated development planning. • To provide a forum for actors in the region in disaster risk management to share information and best practices, thereby creating a living knowledge network that enables increased disaster mitigation and preparedness planning. • To assist disaster risk managers, decision makers and other stakeholders to identify the gaps in policy development and programming for all aspects of disaster risk management in PIC's. • To provide PIC's with a platform to store, display, share and maintain their relevant national data and information on disaster risk management.
Scope:	<p>The portal is developed as living collection and growing resource to support information management for disaster risk management in the Pacific Region. Enabling and assisting actors and stakeholders to research, collaborate and improve decision making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available online and also offline, on DVDs frequently updated and distributed - allowing a much wider outreach even into communities without Internet access. • Hosts material relating to Governance, Risk Assessment, Early Warning and Monitoring, Disaster Risk Management, Training and Tools • From various sources like Countries, Bodies, Organizations and Agencies - at national, regional and international level. • Up-to-date and live information like Alerts with notification, Events, Documents, Calendar, Contacts, Forum & Message board • In a range of formats, including Publications, Reports, Data inventories, Maps, Events, Discussion (threads), Links, Audio / Visual files etc. <p>Currently Pacific Disaster Net hosts approx.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1500 documents, • 1140 events • 320 contacts • Numerous imported alerts, calendar information and 4 videos uploaded.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Pages, What's New, Forum • Local Edition, Mobile Edition (beta), Mobile Remote Control (beta) • Help / How to ... and including Animation (to be enhanced for interactive handbook), Flyer • Policy, Flyer
Expected Outcome:	<p>Strengthening Disaster Risk Management in the Pacific and improve information exchange and awareness with wide coverage.</p> <p>Becoming an everyday tool to support national planning, decision making and Disaster Risk Management.</p> <p>The database will provide information on disaster risk management in 15 PIC's at all levels (international/regional, national and sub-national/community):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data and analysis of hazards (geological, hydro meteorological, biological, technological), vulnerability (social, economic, physical, environmental) and risks that affect communities in PIC's • Maps and asset information for PIC's • Past experience (reports) in disaster response and recovery following a natural disaster and subsequently in disaster reduction and preparedness • Overviews and descriptions of institutional capacities, management, coordination and decision making structures and focal points • National disaster management plans, policies, legislation, regulations and standard operating procedures • Web site links with international agreements and frameworks • Inventory (overview) of NGO's and CSO's active in disaster reduction and risk management: capacity, technical expertise, available resources • Overview of knowledge development (training, education, research, information) in the area of disaster management • Previous, ongoing and planned activities, projects, programs by the various stakeholders on the regional, national, sub-national and community levels
Potential Partners:	<p>Development partners are UNDP, OCHA and IFRC.</p> <p>National and regional stakeholders with an interest or focus in disaster management will benefit from the database including: PIC government professionals in charge of disaster risk management (NDMO's) development planning, finance and risk reduction, PIC community leaders and representatives, NGO's, national Red Cross Societies, donors, international and regional organizations (e.g. UNDP Country Offices, UNOCHA, WHO, UNICEF, ADB, IFRC, SOPAC, SPREP, SPC, EW center), Universities and science institutes (USP) involved in natural disaster management and risk reduction.</p> <p>The database provides links to national sources and other web based data and information, such as ProVention Consortium, Australian-Pacific Centre for Emergency and Disaster Information (APCEDI) disaster alerts, ReliefWeb, Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS), the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the Center for the Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), GLIDE (Global Identification Number), the Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC), the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, East-West Center, the Pacific Disaster Center (PDC), Emergency Management Australia (EMA), etc</p>
Project Timescale:	The development started in 2006 with 4 distinct initial phases

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i.) Analysis, Design, Content Collection and Identification ii.) Coding and Configuration, Submission of Prototype iii.) Portal (CMS Front-end) Design, Layout and Conformance iv.) Deployment, Training and Handover <p>A revision with new visual design, further refinement and additional features beyond the initially planned scope has been finalized and the portal was launched in September 2008.</p> <p>Further development of functionalities and content population is ongoing.</p> <p>Training and content collection in PICs is scheduled.</p> <p>11 Presentations were held during meetings and conferences in 2007 – 2008 in the Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Switzerland, Tonga and Fiji.</p> <p>The targeted PDN deliverables for 2009 are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake development of on-line version of the RFA Monitor and Partner Capability Statements 2. Preparation for country missions with training and content collection 3. Prepare Evaluation / Surveys 4. Evaluate National Event databases – filter / link from PDN into national URL (web address to maintain ownership) 5. Enhance PDN Contact information and include TAF/OFDA trainings contacts 6. Evaluate Calendar / Scheduler Enhancement 7. Evaluate / Develop NDMO Country site – adapted Country page 8. Evaluate Events enhancement – to include baseline and assessment data 9. Establish and enhance communication / information out of PDN 10. Country missions – Cook Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands considered so far 11. Follow up Evaluation / Surveys 12. Increase access to Maps (link with Map Servers) 13. Improve / ease system maintenance and tools 14. Planning for PDN Re-Design according to evaluation, surveys etc 15. Content Feeding in PDN (follow up from country missions and other sources)
Budget (optional):	US\$ 50,000 (indicative estimate)