

Pacific Communities & Climate Forum

Nov 19-21st 2007 - Suva, Fiji Islands

FORUM REPORT

IFRC Pacific Delegation



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International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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1. Background:

Globally the noise about climate change has never been louder. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns unequivocally that changes are occurring to our climate system with human influence mostly to blame. As this century progresses, the social, economic, political and environmental implications could become devastating - especially in developing countries. Countries such as those in the Pacific are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, in particular, extreme weather and climate events such as droughts, floods and cyclones as well as rising sea levels. While much effort is being invested in the international community to mitigate emissions of greenhouse gases that cause climate change, some impacts will be inevitable regardless of how this is addressed. A number of recent analyses in small islands of the Pacific suggest that a prudent way to deal with climate change is through a portfolio of actions at all levels aimed at mitigation, adaptation and improvement of knowledge. (For more information on why the Red Cross is concerned and what actions the Pacific Red Cross Societies are taking please see Annex 1.)

The field of adaptation to the effects of climate change is a relatively new one that is often associated with many 'hard' solutions such as sea walls and other costly infrastructure. However there are many steps or 'soft options' that can be taken at the community level, to build resilience and reduce vulnerability against the effects of extreme events and climate change based on a culture of prevention. These actions are often low cost and termed as 'no regrets' because they will also assist the vulnerable to be better prepared for climate variability and health related risks that already exist.

Diagram 1. below outlines two global frameworks for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management. One of the linkages between the two sectors is that they are both trying to address vulnerability in communities affected by climate risk. While disaster risk reduction focuses more on current risk and adaptation focuses on future risk, both acknowledge that risk is changing - there is much opportunity to work together on both current and future climate risks. Community perceptions of the risks they face are unlikely to make distinctions between current and future risks. For this reason communities will benefit greatly from a 'no regrets' approach that makes efforts to address all risk simultaneously.

Regionally there is still work that can be done to bring together practitioners from various sectors that work with Pacific Island communities to address the climate risks they face in a spirit of collaboration, co-operation, information sharing and partnership. A stronger understanding of how climate change and extreme weather events can affect Pacific Island communities will enable civil society to develop stronger risk reduction and adaptation programmes.

The Pacific Communities and Climate Forum involved stakeholders from civil society and regional organisations from the Pacific. It was generously supported by the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre, IFRC, UNDP and WWF Pacific. Many thanks go to ALL involved in making the forum possible and to the participants for their valuable and honest inputs. Good luck!

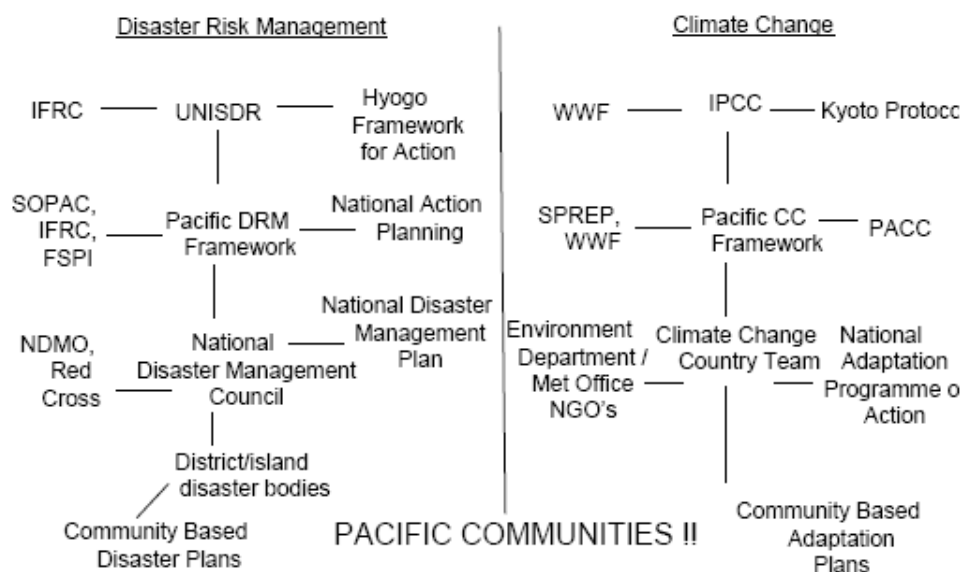


Diagram 1.

2. Aims of the Forum

To enhance work with communities in Pacific Island Countries to reduce the impacts of current and future climate by:

- Exposing people that work with communities to the latest climate information
- Sharing and growing ideas for community based activities in the Pacific Islands region
- Allowing people from the disaster risk management, health, climate change and environment sectors to identify opportunities for partnership and information sharing

3. Participants

See Appendix 2 in back of document

4. Overview

The forum was held over 2 days for civil society practitioners from around the Pacific. The 3rd day was reserved for Red Cross participants only for discussions on action plans and funding opportunities. The agenda was structured to give the 'big picture' on the first day in relation to climate change and disaster risk reduction – the science and frameworks that set the scene for action. The second day was action focused with examples of activities that civil society practitioners are currently undertaking with communities in the Pacific. Participants were encouraged to bring materials to share with others and a space at the back of the conference room was reserved for placing posters, photos, pamphlets etc.

4.1 Summary of sessions

Topics covered included:

1. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report, Pacific Climate Change Framework & climate science
2. South Pacific climate variability
3. Kyoto Protocol
4. Fiji climate change adaptation pilot project

5. Pacific Disaster Risk Management Framework and National Action Planning
6. Climate & water
7. Climate change and health
8. Traditional knowledge, gender and climate
9. Red Cross and climate change
10. Climate change, disaster risk reduction and Pacific churches
11. Drama and climate change
12. Outcomes of the Civil Society Forum in Tonga
13. St. John's Ambulance risk reduction programme
14. UNDP Small Grants Programme

See agenda in appendix 3 at back of document for details of presenters and background on presentations. All presentations are available on CD from the IFRC Suva Delegation (mili.tuapati@ifrc.org).

4.2 Overview of group work

4.2.1 Day 1.

a) El Nino/La Nina – Fiji Met Office

Objective of Session:

The Fiji Met Office gave a comprehensive presentation to participants on the impacts of El Nino and La Nina events in the Pacific, demonstrating how these weather patterns can influence extreme weather events. The objective of this exercise was to explore the range of forecasting information available to practitioners on climate and weather in the Pacific and how best they can use these forecasts to reduce the impacts of extreme weather on Pacific Island Communities.

Exercise:

Participants were asked to list what the impacts of moderate to strong El Nino would be in their own country. They were also asked to list preparedness measures that could be taken. Participants required more information so Ravind and Bec walked amongst the groups. The exercise was the first for participants so took longer than anticipated. Some notes on the impacts and measures that can be taken are below.

Results of exercise:

Impacts of a strong El Nino

- Droughts
- Marine resources
- Agricultural
- Negative health impacts
- Lots of rainfall & landslides
- Tropical cyclone and storm surge
- Loss of income

Measures that can be taken

- Communicating tropical cyclone locations
- Raising awareness with the correct information and timing
- Dialogue with communities
- Networking & early warning
- Making forecasts more understandable to users

Take home lessons:

One of the key learning's to come out of this exercise is the fact that there are still many opportunities for making forecasting useful and relevant for practitioners. There is a

need to simplify and standardise information for example explaining what El Nino and La Nina are and what sorts of impacts an El Nino might have in different parts of the Pacific (recognising that this may undermine accuracy). Seasonal forecasts may be more relevant if produced for various sectors.

b) Kyoto Protocol & Bali negotiations – WWF South Pacific

Objective of session:

The Kyoto Protocol aims to address the issue of climate change globally both in relation to mitigation (reducing emissions) and adaptation (reducing the impacts). In this session WWF made a very convincing argument as to why such a high level global protocol is of relevance to practitioners in the Pacific. WWF and other participants from the forum will be attending the Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP) in Bali in December 2007. The aim of this session was therefore to give practitioners in the Pacific a 'voice' at the Bali COP.

Exercise:

WWF designed an exercise asking participants to identify one issue regarding Climate Change that they would like their governments to take forward in the context of the COP. WWF and other delegates attending the Climate Forum made a commitment to advocate for the concerns identified by Pacific practitioners through this exercise at the COP.

Issues identified by participants at the Climate Forum:

- Need for increased funding for adaptation and technical assistance from developed countries
- Ask all governments to support the global climate treaty
- Increased recognition that communities in some small island developing states are disproportionately affected by CC, funding for adaptation should reflect this.
- Action required on the ground and in negotiations
- Want government representatives to be heard and to represent the community
- Stronger support required for community reforestation programmes
- Further technical assistance for research and systematic observations in terms of climate change analysis
- Stronger mechanisms for reducing greenhouse gas emissions

Take home lessons:

It is well acknowledged that the Pacific Island Countries will be some of the most affected by the adverse impacts of Climate Change. Practitioners in the field have an evolving understanding of the way climate change is impacting the fragile eco-systems and livelihoods of Pacific Island Communities and strong ideas and opinions about the issues that they would like their governments to progress and advocate for in the context of high level global forums on climate change. Pacific Island Governments are often not as well represented as other regions at global forums and the entry points for civil society to have their voices heard at such forums are not always clear. There is much opportunity in the Pacific region to strengthen the representation of Pacific Islands Governments and civil society at global forums as well as identify and formalise mechanisms to ensure that national governments can draw on the depth and breadth of expertise offered by civil society on the issue of climate change. This would greatly assist in strengthening the voice and the position of the Pacific Region to garner support and channel much needed resources into addressing the vulnerabilities of Pacific Island Countries to climate risk.

c) Climate & Health Exercise – Fiji School of Medicine

Objective of session:

Climate and health have many interactions. The Fiji School of Medicine has been involved in developing a proposal on 'Piloting Climate Change Adaptation to Protect

Human Health' with the Fijian Government in conjunction with World Health Organisation and Global Environment Fund. They have consequently built their knowledge capacity in relation to climate change and health and this was an opportunity for them to introduce the relatively new topic to participants.

Exercise:

Participants were asked to choose an existing or emerging climate or weather related hazard. They were asked to list the health implications of each hazard, the practical & realistic low cost steps that can be taken to reduce the impacts of this hazard on health (thinking about before, during and after it hits) and the stakeholders that would need to be involved. See Appendix 4 for table including results.

Take home lessons:

Participants thoroughly enjoyed the presentation on this session – for some it was the first exposure to health and climate – particularly health and climate change. There are evidently many linkages between climate and health – especially evident was the linkages between an El Nino event and water related diseases. Water stress – either too much or too little – can have a large impact on people's health. This provides opportunities prior to, during an after an emergency for public health messages and preventative measures to be put in place.

4.2.2 Day 2.

d) Traditional Environmental Knowledge – University of Hawaii

Objectives of session:

Men and women often hold different types of knowledge given their different roles in daily life. Traditional & local knowledge can give us coping strategies as well as a valuable indicator of the past climate. The aim of this session was to get participants thinking about these factors in disaster and to ask themselves what opportunities exist for utilising this information.

Exercise:

Exercise in Thinking about Gender and Local Knowledge
(results from 15 participants)

1. What are the main projects or programs that you work on?

- | | |
|---|---|
| • "Preparedness for Climate Change" program- including adaptation in human health and tourism (6) | • Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction (7) |
| • Water: Governance and School projects (rural & remote schools) | • Awareness and training to branches, stakeholders, and communities |
| • Developing Sustainable Communities | • Youth Peer Education |
| • Blood Recruiters – Community/Working places | • HIV/AIDS – Community/Working places |
| • NAPA – National Action Plan for Adaptation | • Community Based Natural Resource Management (2) |
| • First Aid – Community and Commercial Sectors (3) | • Seasonal climate outlook for Pacific Island Countries |
| • Sustainable Land Management | • Capacity Development |
| • Reproductive Health | • Sugar sector and energy sector |
| • Health | • Environment |
| • Chemical Management | |

2. Are your projects focused in communities, at the national level, or at the regional level? COMMUNITIES 8 NATIONAL 11 REGIONAL 0

3. Do you think about program development based on age, gender (male & female), ethnicity, language, race, geographic groups?

AGE 7 GENDER 6 ETHNICITY 3 LANGUAGE 4 GEOGRAPHIC 8 RACE 1

Comment: "Combination of all would be good."

4. What aspects of society do your programs benefit (for example, environment, health, poverty reduction, disaster reduction, water resources, marine resources, etc.)?

Environment 6 Health 8 Disaster Reduction 8 Water Resources 3 Renewable Energy 1 Agriculture 1 Tourism 1 Transport 1 Marine Resource 1

5. What information sources on climate does the community that you work with trust (community may be geographic area, like a village, or a sector, like health professionals or agricultural communities)?

• Meteorological Office/Climate System (4)	• An integration of technical (scientific) and traditional environmental knowledge
• Combination of lots of sources of information.	• High Tide – concepts
• For community based project, we are integrating TEK on sustainable development.	• Moon phases / Lunar cycle
• Radio (2)	• Health Officers in communities
• Disaster Preparedness & Risk Reduction	• International NGOs
• Professionals and Individuals in climate sensitive areas. Industry sectors and agricultural communities.	• Some traditional knowledge in community-based projects
• They mostly trust their traditional weather knowledge	• Vulnerable communities (land lease)

6. What sources of climate information does your organization use? Do you use Traditional Environmental Knowledge (TEK) and local knowledge into your projects? YES 8, we use local knowledge.

- Use information from the Meteorological Offices
- Used modern & traditional knowledge in implementation of projects
- Local knowledge
- Information distributed through brochures, pamphlets, drawings
- Not at all at this stage.
- Wherever possible and necessary.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Do you see opportunities to improve your programs by including TEK?

- TEK and local knowledge to be enhanced and implemented, especially in disaster risk reduction measures.
- We'll have a better understanding of the communities (culture, attitude, behaviour) and better approach.
- This would enable us to have better information or more information regarding our programs.
- Approach improved to negotiate from the grassroots level.
- Better information on communities, enabling better running of programs.
- Improve knowledge based on traditional concepts of high tide and moon movement.
- Yes, there is room for more research and awareness to the people on the benefit of use of local knowledge and conservation of the environment.
- There's room to improve awareness talks & project activities.

- Conservation of the environment and use of local knowledge
 - Yes, it is interesting and I believe it has a lot to offer in terms of understanding and improvement.
 - It will be useful when we get to the stage of working in the communities.
 - It is interesting and I believe it has a lot to offer in terms of understanding and improvement
- 2) Do you see opportunities to improve the reach of your projects by engaging more with communities of men or women (or other groups) to ensure that broader knowledge is included in your projects?
- Yes, lots of ideas shared in discussions.
 - Will help with the ownership of the programs and identification of stakeholders and participants.
 - Will help to reduce conflict.
 - Lots of idea sharing would take place, hence make it easier for decision making processes.
 - More sharing of ideas.
 - Ownership of programs.
 - Reducing conflicts.
 - Involving both women & men will limit conflicts in the households
 - Will increase feelings of ownership of projects.
 - Involvement of more or different groups will bring more ideas & knowledge.
 - Incorporating awareness and involvement of people in project activities
 - Women are the first line of resource managers and Youth are future custodians of the resources (2).
 - Opportunities for integration of climate variability/change information with women and youth.

Take home lessons:

The results of the exercise on Traditional Knowledge clearly highlighted three sources of information that are trusted by communities and practitioners working both at the programmatic level and grass roots levels. These include information coming from Meteorological Offices in the region; Radio; and traditional or local knowledge. The identification of these three trusted sources of information provide an opportunity for practitioners at all levels to better target their work in terms of maximizing their ability to communicate with their target audience. The exercise also revealed a strong commitment to and awareness of the benefits of integrating traditional or local knowledge into the development and implementation of programmes and projects. Similarly the exercise revealed a commitment to the benefits of integrating gendered perspectives into programming and project work with communities. Several practitioners noted that this would assist in fostering more ownership in communities and reduce the likelihood of conflict within households and communities. Overall this session highlights opportunities to provide further support to practitioners in the understanding and application of participatory approaches that will assist them in working with men and women to acknowledge the importance of and to integrate their local knowledge into development initiatives. Such support might include but not limited to: training on VCA and other tools that utilize participatory approaches; training on the sensitivities surrounding traditional/local knowledge and how best to help communities use their knowledge to benefit themselves and; methodologies for ensuring that the perspectives of men and women are reflected in development initiatives.

*For further discussion notes made by the presenter, Cheryl Anderson (University of Hawaii) please refer to Appendix 5.

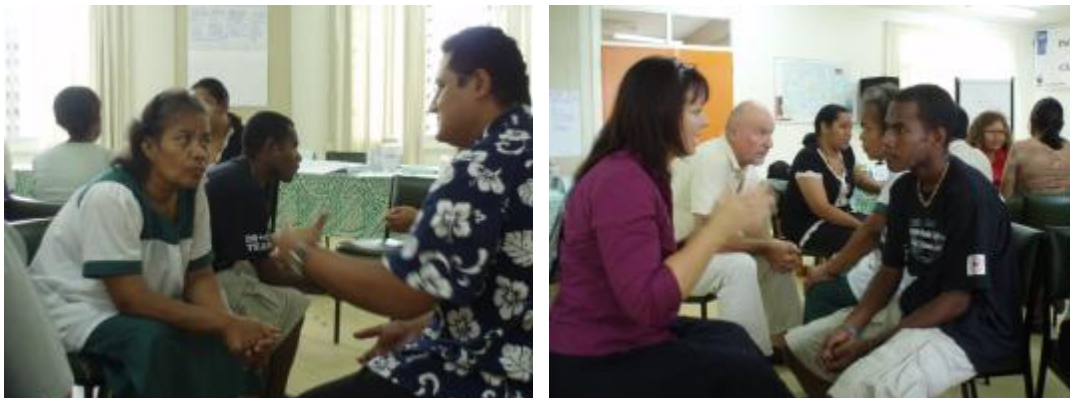
e) Speed dating – IFRC

Objective of session:

It is well acknowledged that best practice is fostered through the sharing of information and ideas between practitioners. The purpose of this session was to provide participants with the opportunity to do just this and to hone their skills in communicating key messages and lessons learned in a short period of time. Forum participants hold a lot of institutional memory and experience – but given the short duration of the forum – not everyone had the opportunity to speak. This exercise was devised to enable people to hear and get a taste for what projects others had been involved with as well as utilise these ideas for their own programmes.

Exercise:

Participants were asked to sit in a ‘fishbowl’ formation, 8 chairs in a circle facing outwards and 8 chairs surrounding that facing inwards. The inner group were asked to be the listeners and were asked to highlight what some of the characteristics of a good listener were before taking on their role. Those on the outer circle were asked to think of a project that they had been involved with that they thought worked well and the lessons learnt from it. Participants were asked to take their places and those on the outer circle had 1 minute to tell their story before being moved clockwise to the next listener. The effect was immediate – the noise level in the room skyrocketed and participants found it challenging to highlight the key aspects of their project within one minute. Towards the end of the 8 times that they had to tell their story they were capturing the essence of them very well. They were then asked to swap roles, the listeners becoming the story tellers and the story tellers hearing a sample of 8 projects.



Take home lessons:

The overwhelmingly positive response to this exercise by participants reflects the strong willingness of practitioners to make use of opportunities to share experiences and lessons learned with one another. Group discussions amongst participants revealed that they learned a lot in a very small space of time from one another that they would take back with them to their respective fields and localities of work. Overall the exercise clearly identified opportunities for strengthening practice in Risk Reduction by devoting more time, space and resources for practitioners to benefit from one another's work through the development of forums, workshops and training opportunities. Unfortunately each ‘story’ was not documented by facilitators which meant that participants took them away with them but those not directly involved were unable to benefit from their lessons learnt. Further feedback can be found below.

What makes a good project?

Group 1.

- Participation of all stakeholders (NGO's, government, communities)
- Project relevance (based on reality)
- Precise objectives (SMART)

Group 2.

- Commitment
- Enthusiasm
- Skills
- Right people
- Community empowerment
- Relevant
- Follow up
- Adequate resources
- Advocacy
- Measurable and realistic
- Proper planning
- Technical support

Best Ideas Group Liked

Group 1.

- Approaches (changes)

Group 2.

- Water project in Fiji schools
- PNG relocation
- Fiji mangrove and piggery
- Tuvalu – 5 hr training for primary schools

f) Drama – University of the South Pacific

Objective of Session:

To investigate the effectiveness of drama as a climate communication tool and to demonstrate the USP community drama programme.

Exercise:

See Appendix 6 for details of the exercise that was undertaken.

See below for photos.

Take home lessons:

The exercise was deemed as highly successful by participants – many listing it as an activity that they would like to instigate when they return to their work. They see it especially as a way of engaging volunteers. In the words of Sukulu Rupeni – “those who participate in drama learn the issues by heart given the amount of time they practice, gain confidence in public speaking, gain self esteem, youth gain healthy social skills and enhanced awareness of community needs and issues. It is fun learning and it is the fun experiences where you learn from the most”.



g) Action items from participants

In the final session participants were asked to identify one action item that they will take back with them and work with. Many participants identified drama as an activity that they would like to utilise to get messages about climate risk and reduction exposure to it across. Some thought it would be a useful way of involving youth. After many of the technical presentations it was demonstrated very well that drama can get quite complex messages across very powerfully, without even necessarily using a spoken word.

Many participants also saw the need to engage in stronger networking and partnerships with stakeholders across different sectors (including communities) as well as providing communities with awareness and training programmes. They saw the need to integrate technical (scientific) work with traditional environmental knowledge and to become better versed on traditional knowledge in their countries. Some expressed that they wanted to implement current programs in line with the different (regional) frameworks that were presented during the forum.

4.2.3 Day 3

Gaps and Opportunities identified by Red Cross participants after Forum

As the Red Cross participants underwent a 'debriefing' together a number of gaps and opportunities for future work were identified. Many of the opportunities were specifically relating to communication. One of the key acknowledgements was that there is a gap (sometimes a very large one) between climate science and civil society/community understanding and that many opportunities exist for improving the communication of climate information (both weather and climate, present and future risks). Red Cross National Society staff highlighted the need for improved communication with meteorological offices, improving relationships with media to enable messages to be spread to the public and establishment of drama programmes. Some felt that they would need to hold a national stakeholders meeting to analyse nationally who was doing what and what potential work needs to be done to further address climate risk. Another saw the need for a manual on weather terminology in their country to enable people to understand warnings more effectively.

Red Cross participants were glad to have the opportunity to share information with each other – particularly via the 'speed dating' exercise and some were amazed at the range of activities currently being undertaken by various organisations represented at the forum. Exchange of skilled National Society staff between the countries may further improve sharing of knowledge and experience. While building capacity of staff was recognised, the need to build capacity and management of volunteers was also highlighted.

One National Society felt that the climate & health presentation gave ideas for incorporating public health into disaster awareness. Others saw the need to work on

The main items in the agenda that could have been improved in the first day were: more time for participation (because the presentations went over time the number of activities involving participants had to be cut back). The program was too tight and the science presentations tended to be too technical but useful for those with strong prior climate change knowledge.

Participants on the first day gave a range of responses on what parts of the sessions were useful to them – many enjoyed the wide variety of sectors covered and how this interrelated with the ‘web of climate change impacts’. Many especially found being exposed to the concept of climate change and health especially useful and new to them. Others valued the ideas for working on risk reduction with communities and the number of sectors that this will need to involve.

Day 2

Ideas & positive elements	Could be improved
- Speed dating 3	- More time 2
- Drama 5	- Promote more discussion/questions 6
- Background information 2	- Provide summary points at end of workshop 3
- Importance of traditional environmental knowledge 3	- Funding criteria more detailed 1
- Importance of involvement of all sectors and levels 5	- Should include movies/clips 1
- Learnt a lot of things 3	- Venue needs improving 1
- Funding 1	- Side visits to projects would be good 1
- Great forum 3	-

The main item in the agenda that could have been improved on the second day was more time for discussion which lead to the suggestion that more time should have been allowed for the workshop.

Participants on the second day felt that the speed dating and drama were interactive and very useful for generation of ideas to take back with them. Many also found the first session on traditional knowledge and gender stimulated them to think about how they could incorporate these into their projects. Again, many found that it was useful to be exposed to a wide variety of sectors and practitioners working on climate which highlighted the need to network and share information.

Day 3 Red Cross in house Day

Red Cross participants had an open and frank discussion regarding content of the forum agenda. Those with little prior knowledge of climate science found the presentations in the first morning daunting. However many found the update on the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report interesting and useful. Those who have been working on the Preparedness for Climate Change Programme generally felt that the information was digestible however they wished that they had undertaken the regional workshop prior to preparing the background document on climate change which is step 2 of their programme.

It was highlighted that the exercise on the Kyoto Protocol improved participants understanding of the process exercise and it was really useful for those attending the COP meeting in Bali.

Other specific comments included:

- Topics interlinked well
- Need to make links between disaster risk reduction and climate change clear
- GEF funding overview good
- Would have been good to be separated into country groups
- More country interaction with the program would have been good

- Meetings should not be held during the cyclone season
- Involving communities in programmes is important – they feel the impacts
- The forum will help integrate climate change into DM/DP plans
- Climate risk needed working on more anyway – climate change makes it even more important!

5. Conclusions

A third day for all participants could have involved a site visit and also given more space in the agenda. A debrief in an intimate Red Cross group on the 3rd day exposed the need to have debriefed in country breakout groups prior to the end of the workshop on Tuesday.

The science based items on the first morning appeared to be OK for those who had some previous background in climate change. Exposure to the background behind climate variability in the Pacific was new for most participants which made understanding the concepts challenging. To improve the ability of participants to understand it would probably be best to focus in on one or two characteristics of climate variability in the Pacific. This exposes the need for greater exposure to the concepts and the difficulties involved in getting information across to the people who can ultimately use it without losing the meaning. Many participants highlighted that they would concentrate on building networks with national organisations such as Met Offices in their feedback to improve their climate risk reduction programmes.

Participants especially enjoyed the Kyoto presentation, clarification of the IPCC, the climate and health presentation, the speed dating and drama activities. One of the aims of the forum was to expose practitioners to the range of sectors working on elements of climate risk – in forum feedback it was acknowledged that this had been a highlight for participants. Climate impacts many sectors and communities in different ways and it is through sharing of information and cooperation that climate risk can be better understood and addressed.

Appedix 1.

Why the Red Cross is concerned about Climate Change?

The International Federation is concerned about the humanitarian impacts of climate change.

Climate change is a humanitarian issue as much as it is an environmental, political and economic one. It is expected to lead to a significant increase in the frequency and/or severity of weather extremes like heat waves, floods, droughts and tropical cyclones, and the spread of diseases such as malaria and dengue.

The people hardest hit by these effects of climate change will be the world's most vulnerable, the elderly, the young, the sick and the poorest people in the poorest countries.

To meet the humanitarian challenges of climate change, we must not only strengthen our capacity to respond to disasters but we must also invest in disaster risk reduction – in making communities stronger and more resilient in the first place.

Disasters cannot always be prevented but they do not have to be devastating or catastrophic. The key is to be willing to invest in public health initiatives, community preparedness, and emergency planning.

What is the Red Cross doing about Climate Change in the Pacific?

Red Cross Societies in the Pacific undertake preparation for and response to climate related and other emergencies in their country in partnership with their governments. They coordinate large amounts of enthusiastic volunteers to reach affected people and provide them with essential items.

The Pacific Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction program began in 2005 with the aim of reducing the impact of or even preventing disasters before they happen. Pilot projects began with Samoa and Tuvalu Red Cross Societies. The program has now grown to include Solomon Islands, Tonga, Cook Islands, Palau and Kiribati. Fiji, Vanuatu and PNG are keen to come on board in 2008.

All sorts of community based activities have taken place – disaster & climate change awareness with schools, drama, poster competitions, documentaries, radio shows, distribution of and training in satellite phones to isolated island communities, better partnerships between meteorological and other government departments, helping communities interpret weather warnings, community projects on income generation, tree planting to reduce coastal erosion, bringing government departments to people who need their assistance and increasing our ability to respond to disasters.

Appendix 2. Participants List

	Participants List	Organisation
1	Ana File	Cook Islands Red Cross
2	Tataua Pese	Tuvalu Red Cross
3	Charlie Numaga	Cook Islands Red Cross
4	James Teo	PNG Red Cross
5	Goretti Wulf	Samoa Red Cross
6	Elizabeth Veikoso	Tonga Red Cross
7	George Baragamu	Solomon Islands Red Cross
8	Temanori Tiree	Kiribati Red Cross
9	Aslam Khan	Fiji Red Cross
10	Alivereti Moroca	Fiji Red Cross
11	Renzo Benfatto	Oxfam NZ
12	Basil Peso	Care PNG Affiliate UNDP Environment National Programme
13	Meapelo Maliai	Officer
14	Lynelle Popot	UNDP Programme Associate
15	Morena Rigamoto	Live & Learn
16	Rev. Tafue Lasama	WWF - TuCAN Tuvalu
17	Pepetua Latasi	Tuvalu government
18	Taukiei Kitara	TANGO
19	Keba Koro	St John's Ambulance
20	Melton Tauetia	TuCAN
21	Jyotishma Rajan	
22	Naicker	WWF South Pacific
23	Pepe Clarke	IUCN
24	Tukatara Tangi	SOPAC
25	Bec McNaught	IFRC
26	Ruth Lane	UNDP
27	Cheryl Anderson	University of Hawaii
28	Prof Koshy USP	USP
29	Leone Limalevu	USP
30	Ravind Kumar	Fiji Met Office
31	Diane McFadzien	WWF South Pacific
32	Sainimile Tawake	PIANGO
33	Linda Yuen	SOPAC
34	Mosese Sikuvou	SOPAC
35	Zac Morse	Fiji School of Medicine
36	Francis Areki	WWF Fiji
37	Sukulu Rupeni	USP
38	Fei Tevi	Pacific Council of Churches
	Agnes Rigamoto	British High Commission

Appendix 3. Agenda (see attachment)

Appendix 4. Climate & Health Exercise (see attachment)

Appendix 5. DISCUSSION NOTES: Traditional Environmental Knowledge & Gender

- Are there resources to help communities document traditional knowledge? Yes, there are oral history projects and methodologies developed at universities; however, the information can be sensitive and not all communities want their information documented. It may be that we provide information to communities about changes

in climate that allow them to use the knowledge to make the best management decisions for their communities.

- Ravind – has conducted a study in Fiji on the Coral Coast to document traditional knowledge and realized that women still have much more of the traditional knowledge than men. Men were found to be territorial and less likely to share information. Women had knowledge of the seasonality of fishing and agricultural cycles and were better at finding resources because of their household management responsibilities.
- Keba - Fijian women have control over households and in this way they have decision making power in communities. In community and public decision making, the men make decisions.
- In Samoa, any initiative for communities must pass through the Village Councils for approval. Samoan women push initiatives through their churches (through the Ministers who are men) or through leaders (who are primarily men). The Samoan women ensure that projects are carried out. They feel they have equality.
- The climate sector in Samoa has learned to integrate the traditional names of weather and climate-related events into the forecasts made by the climate scientists to ensure that people understand the impacts better.
- The Tuvalu Met Office was not always reliable with their broadcasts, so it was important to also incorporate TEK, although TEK was not taken as seriously in programming. TANGO used TEK in producing traditional healing methods.
- As climate has changed drastically, many of the indicators that local communities used to identify potential climate impacts, such as floods. There's a problem in using TEK in that the knowledge may no longer respond to the impacts of climate. There may be use in engaging communities to use the traditional forms of communication and leadership structures to developing strategies and responses to climate.
- TEK, gender roles, can be useful in programs dealing with local communities in climate change awareness programs. It will be important in community relocation projects to identify appropriate methods and traditional knowledge that will enable communities to rebuild and cope with changes in climate. (ex Talele Besa in PNG supported by PNG Care International).
- In PNG, there is community involvement in the DM programs. Focus includes youth and young adults. There are some gaps that can be worked on using traditional knowledge and roles to integrate these into management.

Appendix 6.

Drama exercise (see attachment)