

21 Oct 2008

**Plenary session: Geographic
PACIFIC REGION**

1. Delegates from the Pacific, elected Ms. Cheryl Anderson of the University of Hawaii to chair the session; Ms. Neta Pelesikoti of Tonga, rapporteur, and Ms. Hona Holan of Papua New Guinea as a closing speaker. The session had 10 participants in all.
2. In their discussions, the participants made the following general comments:
 - i) For the Pacific CCA and Mitigation in DRR is looking at the same issues.
 - ii) How can CCA and DRM practitioners work more closely together.
 - iii) PIC – the need to understand the underlying causes of our vulnerability in the face of CC. Need to look at Pacific development activities and how they contribute to the region's vulnerability.
 - iv) Incorporate gender into Nation Action Plans (NAPs) processes along with resource allocations (also National Sustainable Development Plan – NSDP)
 - v) Utilizing traditional learning methods, systems and structures as opportunities for advocacy, education and awareness.
3. The participants included the following as guiding instruments: Pacific Plan; Pacific DRM Framework for Action (SOPAC); Climate Change Framework for Action (SPREP); Pacific Platform for Action – gender document (Beijing meeting)
4. They expressed their interest in the important role of National Statistics offices to provide gender-disaggregated information along with gender analysis and for CCA/DRM practitioners to have more tools to analyse or assist gender dimensions to CCA and DRR (tools on Resource CD –training on how to use the tools).
5. The delegates of the Pacific Region also enumerated the key issues and challenges as follows:
 - i) Migration, Displaced communities – which have huge gender implications
 - ii) Resource sustainability (water, sanitation, shelter, etc.)
 - iii) Agriculture and Fisheries and Food Security (fisheries is an area which PI countries may rely more on than traditional agriculture)
 - iv) Advocacy, Political will, Awareness raising, Information dissemination: the need to ensure there is implementation of policies and programs
 - v) Need for better coordination among international, regional, national agencies, includes donor coordination
 - vi) Strength of the Pacific Island Countries to act with one voice on issues of CCA, sea level rise, etc.. (i.e. in the 70s the region joined hands against nuclear testing!)
 - vii) Incorporate gender policy into the development dialogue

6. The delegates also listed some Action Points as follows:
- i) Gender analysis of existing policies and legislation to determine extent or differential impacts of CC and DRM.
 - ii) Ensure “women” have access to technologies, grass root renewable energy initiatives, land-use, sedimentation prevention and coral reef protection, and migration policies, etc. Aggregate the best practices in these areas for use in accessing identified funding sources.
 - iii) Training for politicians
 - iv) Need for more effective monitoring and evaluation
7. For their legislative agenda, the delegates from the Pacific enumerated the following:
- i) Ensure regional policies and programs for CCA, DRR/DM and sustainable development frameworks, including health, fisheries, agriculture, energy, environment and education, incorporate both human rights and gender dimensions.
 - ii) We recognize the need for governments with the support of regional organizations, donors, civil societies and NGOs to ensure existing and new CC and DRR/DM legislations and policies are gender sensitive, i.e. resource base legislation, renewable energy, health, fisheries and marine resources, food security, etc...

For renewable energy in the Pacific to include gender language consideration, dimensions in supporting policies and programs.

8. The following is the list of issues by the Pacific delegates:

8.1 General Development issues

- Pacific falls off the radar of most developed countries
- All about sustainable development
- Indigenous peoples included in CCA
- Pacific Absorptive capacity (limited)
- Tasks piling up/increasing demands
- Region is particularly weak
- Pacific people to reassert themselves
- Pacific people need to stick together and have a unified voice
- Organizations have become weaker
- Pacific does have capacity
- Need to develop a sense of urgency
- Pacific Is countries do stick together, they do have a coordinated voice – but developed countries do not put the technology on the table to assist the PICs in dealing with global issues.

8.2 Environment-related/ CCA

- Perpetrators – developed countries
- Pacific is a very diverse region, hence programs and tools for CCA and DRR need adaptation
- Distance between island nations, even with island states
- Need to acknowledge the similarities between CCA and DRR
- CCA is an urgent need
- CCA and DRR – dealing with drr will not get to the crux of the issue
- How the global issues affect the PIC.
- Climate Change as a Human Rights issue
- Interface of CC with issues of Human Security and Migration
- Erosion of Traditional Coping mechanisms due to CC
- SIDS – representing the smaller Pacific nations (Tuvalu, Niue, Kiribati, RMI, Palau, etc) as their issues may not be adequately addressed alongside the larger PICs

8.3 Communication

- NZ – disseminate information in a manner which women can understand
- Lack of Pacific information
- Governments – more awareness and gender is not ad hoc approach
- Awareness on population gives rise to relocation issues (PNG – Buka)

8.4 Resources, Donors

- Significant funds available for CCA
- Need for donor agencies to better coordinate

8.5 Gender-related

- Comprehensively engage all the sectors
- Human development issue first before a gender issue – however there is need to have research and data on gender
- Gender: specific information on different gender roles can increase the
- Lack of Pacific women politicians
- Not putting more burden on women
- Gender documentation –where it makes best sense to incorporate – what makes the most sense
- Women’s right and ability to be heard
- Need for male advocacy to get man/male help women