

Legal frameworks for Ecosystem-Based Adaptation to Climate Change in the Pacific Islands

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Project Type	Other	
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Project Objectives This report is primarily directed to analysing the legal aspects of ecosystem-based [adaptation to climate change](#). It sketches the impacts of [climate change](#) in the Pacific Island countries, recognizing that [climate change](#) directly impacts ecosystems, which provide for the needs of people as well as for the maintenance of the natural [environment](#). It takes as a given that ecosystem-based [adaptation](#) can provide cost-effective strategies for reducing [vulnerability to climate change](#) impacts and enhancing ecosystem resilience, thereby maintaining ecosystem services and sustainable livelihoods. The report is written in light of the [research](#) reports completed by SPREP and Conservation International for this project (SPREP and Conservation International 2011). An essential aspect of the legal analysis is an examination of the way in which environmental [governance](#) operates in Pacific Island countries. The analysis is directed both to current formal legal systems as well as to customary mechanisms at the community level, exploring both potential barriers as well as the possibilities in the national [legislation](#) for achieving the aims of ecosystembased [adaptation](#) strategies. The report includes six brief legal case studies of more or less representative Pacific Island countries. The case studies provide a snapshot of the relevant legal frameworks in the selected jurisdictions in order to assess the suitability of those frameworks for providing a legally robust basis for ecosystembased [adaptation](#). The report shows that appropriate legal mechanisms developed at the national level can play a key role in promoting [adaptation](#), especially through restoring and maintaining ecosystem resilience, to address the effects of [climate change](#). Also important are the regional environmental law instruments that currently operate in the Pacific region. While they are not examined in detail in this report, they have the potential to promote ecosystem-based [adaptation](#) strategies at the national level.

Implementing Countries

Solomon Islands
Cook Islands
Federated States of Micronesia
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