

Concept Note: Palau Climate Change Policy Framework

The need for a climate change policy framework emerged as a major issue during several key discussions (June 2011; January 2012 and July 2012) between Palau government, NGOs and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's (SPC) Programmes: Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA-PSIS) Project funded by the European Union, and the Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Islands Region (CCCPIR –GIZ) funded by the German Government.

At the same time ROP government formally requested U.S. Government (USG) assistance in developing a Climate Change Strategy and Roadmap/Action Plan for implementation, however the funds for this were not made available until late 2013.

In June 2012 – House Joint Resolution 8-68-13, HD1 - Urged a climate change committee to be formed to establish a clear policy and plan of action. It also calls for a high level ministerial level committee on Climate Change.

In December 2012 the ROP government formally requested SPC assistance. This is being provided through GCCA: PSIS/CCCPIR as technical assistance for four consultancies, as well as through input of the CC Advisers based in Pohnpei.

In addition, a request has been made for additional support for a national working group process using a logical framework approach to help identify sectoral or thematic priorities for inclusion in the CCPF and the JNAP which is to be supported through the EU SPC BSRP project.

Objectives of the CCPF

To provide a coordinated national framework /mechanism through which strategic and prioritized actions can be taken to build the resilience of Palau to climate change (CC adaptation) and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (CC mitigation).

The process to develop the CCPF aims to be inclusive, build on existing initiatives and to result in a strategic framework for action at all levels across all sectors. As the policy framework is implemented, it is intended that all stakeholders will:

- Know their role in the development and implementation of the CCPF;
- Know the specific actions they must take for building their community or sector's adaptive capacity;
- Know and build/strengthen the mechanisms and institutions to facilitate adaptive capacity, and;
- Know where to access funding support to ensure that these mechanisms and institutions are sustained.

Palau CCPF TA

Proposed Vision Statement for Addressing Climate Change in Palau “Happy, healthy and resilient Palauan communities in a changing world” /- “A Belau a kldmokl, mesisiich, modeuades e klekar”
The policy is proposed to build on sustainable development goals and thematic sectoral clusters: Thriving lives and livelihoods, Sustainable Food Security, Sustainable Water Security, Universal Clean Energy, Healthy Productive Ecosystems, Good Governance.

1. Gaps and needs analysis: This involved a stakeholder analysis, national and state-level review of legislation and policies and how they incorporate climate change issues. Existing climate change related activities were also compiled and reviewed. Based on this work a gaps and needs analysis was developed to guide the future planning and prioritisation of climate change activities, including recommendations for an oversight committee.
2. Community engagement strategy: This built on the community visioning activities, the Local Early Adaptation Project (LEAP), the community land use plans and other activities already undertaken. It involved enlisting the support of a non-governmental organisation (NGO) to review these activities and synthesise and analyse the outcomes as they relate to climate change.
3. Development of a climate change policy framework: This will essentially be a policy document which will require approval from the country’s legislative assembly. It will also require input from the communities (see component 2). The framework will address how to build Palau’s resilience to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and will include:

Overall objectives

- High-level ways to mitigate and adapt to climate change
 - Definition of the role of government agencies
 - Definition of coordination mechanisms, including a lead team and coordination committees
 - Approaches to climate change funding
 - Provisions for regular review of the framework.
4. Preparation of a climate change plan of action: This will support the climate change policy framework by listing, costing and prioritising projects for support over the review period of the climate change policy framework.

OERC Team is facilitating summary document for policy makers of the Gaps and Needs Analysis and the Community Engagement Strategy for endorsement, and has formalized the ad hoc national climate change advisory body under the National Environment Committee which will steer the process for developing Palau’s CCPF.

Consultant hired by SPC GCCA: PSIS/CCCPIR to work with the OERC Team on the development of Palau’s CCPF and Action Plan (Investment Plan) has commenced work, with the intention to have a well consulted draft CCPF ready for endorsement by the end of 2014, and the action plan to follow shortly thereafter.