

Pacific Climate Change Roundtable - Abstract

Session 3: Increased Resiliency Against Climate Change Impacts and Disaster Risks

Sustainable livelihoods for Pacific island peoples are highly dependent upon the natural marine and terrestrial resources within the region. Climate change threats to these natural resources are exacerbating ongoing threats due to increasing and/or centralizing human populations, invasive species, coastal development, land clearing, erosion of soil, nutrient inputs to coastal waters, and overharvesting of marine resources.

There is increasing recognition of the need to increase resilience of Pacific island peoples to these ongoing stresses on the natural environment as well as to climate change impacts, such as sea level rise, which are likely to increase the impacts of natural disasters including tsunamis and cyclones.

An approach which is being increasingly applied, from remote villages through to urban centres, is looking for 'natural solutions' to increase resilience and sustainability. These 'natural solutions' are actions that protect or restore natural terrestrial and marine habitats and processes to ensure that the ecosystem services they provide are maintained as a basis for adaptation and enhanced resilience to climate change impacts.

This session will draw on SPREP 's experience working with PICTs on ecosystem-based adaptation in the Pacific region, particularly in an innovative multi-sector approach in Choiseul Province, Solomon Islands and other EbA approaches in Fiji, Vanuatu and Kiribati.