

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

Division: PAHQ

TA No. and Name TA 6064-REG: Climate Change Adaptation Program for the Pacific			Amount Approved: \$800,000		
			Revised Amount: \$800,000		
Executing Agency Asian Development Bank	Source of Funding: The Government of Canada through Canadian Cooperation Fund on Climate Change		TA Amount Undisbursed \$72,984	TA Amount Utilized \$727,016	
Approval	Date		Completion Date		
	Signing	Fielding of Consultants	Original	Actual	
08 November 2002	NR	12 February 2003	31 January 2004	31 January 2005	
			Closing Date		
			Original	Actual	
			31 January 2004	17 April 2006	
Description					
<p>The Pacific islands region faces increasing environmental and socioeconomic pressures exacerbated by global climate change and climate variability. Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), small island developing states are recognized as being particularly vulnerable to climate change. Even without climate change, Pacific island countries are already severely affected by climate variability and extremes, and they remain extremely vulnerable to future changes in the regional climate that could increase the risks. They have clearly recognized the need to (i) reduce vulnerability to these increasing risks through adaptation processes, and (ii) strengthen human and institutional capacities to assess, plan, and respond to these challenges. Recent scientific evidence indicates that climate change will increase the frequency and intensity of extreme events in the decades to come. While the costs of disasters and disaster management are generally quantifiable, the identification of the cost of adaptation (the incremental costs) to climate change is recognized as a difficult task. One important step in this approach is to improve methods for estimating (i) impacts of climatic extremes on both natural and human environment as a result of both present variability and scenarios of future climate change and (ii) the options for, and costs of, adaptation.</p>					
Objectives and Scope					
<p>The goal of the TA was to assist Pacific developing member countries (PDMCs) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to adapt to climate change and variability (CCV). The purpose of the TA was to mainstream climate change adaptation through integrated risk reduction (CCAIRR), on a pilot basis, in development planning and management in selected PDMCs and ADB operations. The scope and outputs of the TA included (i) a review of completed and ongoing programs on climate variability and risk management, and climate change vulnerability and adaptation, with regard to appropriateness and applicability of CCAIRR; (ii) mainstreaming CCAIRR into ADB project operations to better respond to country needs; and (iii) at the country level, mainstreaming of CCAIRR in two selected PDMCs, on a pilot basis, at national development planning, sector, and project levels. The objectives, scope, and terms of reference were maintained throughout the TA implementation.</p>					
Evaluation of Inputs					
<p>The TA and the terms of reference took into consideration issues related to recent trends in CCV, the UNFCCC communications regarding small island states, and the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change, Climate Variability, and Sea Level Rise, as endorsed by the South Pacific Forum's leaders. A team of four international and three domestic consultants was recruited to undertake a regional study (mainstreaming climate change adaptation in ADB operation) and country case studies in Cook Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). The expertise of the consultants was appropriate in facilitating the implementation of the TA. The total international consultants' input was 21 person-months and the domestic consultants' input was 10 person-months. The performances of the international consultants were generally satisfactory, while the team leader has been excellent. The TA implementation period was extended from 15 to 27 months to accommodate (i) extended time in undertaking the case studies, particularly in Cook Islands due to difficulties to obtain information essential to undertaking one of the case study components, (ii) further refining the regional study, and (iii) integrating the findings of the country study into the regional study, and (iv) editing/publishing the final reports.</p>					
<p>The case studies included stakeholder participation, including key government officials, representatives of NGOs, and community organizations. This helped ensure achievement of the objectives of the case studies and increase national and community ownership of the findings. The implementing agencies in each country provided excellent support. Excellent cooperation was offered by concerned agencies in providing information needed for the TA. There was active participation of the countries' climate change country teams throughout the TA implementation. TA administration and supervision undertaken by ADB staff is considered adequate. Several missions (inception and review missions in Cook Islands and FSM) were fielded to review progress and achievement of the case studies, and to discuss with the concerned government agencies aspects of climate change adaptation and the implications for development. The missions were adequate, and were able to review and evaluate the TA progress and made the necessary adjustments in TA implementation. Overall, the delivery of the above inputs by ADB, as the implementing agency of the TA, is satisfactory.</p>					

Evaluation of Outputs

TA accomplishments cover several major outputs. These include reports on climate change adaptation mainstreaming at the ADB level, i.e. mainstreaming climate change adaptation into ADB programs and projects to better respond to country needs; and at the country level, i.e. mainstreaming climate change adaptation at the national development planning, program, and project levels through case studies in the Cook Islands and FSM. At the regional level the TA has produced the following reports: (i) climate stocktaking review, (ii) climate support kit, (iii) guidelines for adaptation mainstreaming, (iv) country climate risk profiles (prepared for 8 countries), (v) project adaptation briefs for selected projects in the pipeline. The outputs of the case studies are presented in a report entitled: "Climate Proofing: A Risk-based Approach to Adaptation". It highlights the range of levels at which adaptation takes place (at project, regulation, short- and mid-term policy and planning at sub-national level, and national strategic development planning levels), and the linkages between them. The studies demonstrated the importance of mainstreaming adaptation, including strengthening the enabling environment for adaptation to increase the likelihood of successful adaptation at project and community levels. The TA also produced "National Guidelines for Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change". These were adopted by the governments of each country, and are now used as the main documents in adaptation mainstreaming at national level. The TA also covered training and capacity building of relevant government agencies and related stakeholders in climate change adaptation, including involvement in various TA activities. At the end of the TA implementation, the persons involved have the capability to apply the recommendations as well as undertake independent studies on climate change adaptation (such as the Pohnpei Environmental Protection Agency who undertook a subsequent study on climate change adaptation in Nakuoro Atoll). The TA inputs have been effective where substantial amount of TA outputs have been produced in efficient manner and it even exceeded the target. Governments of the two countries expressed their appreciation on the TA inputs and the TA outcome. The outputs of the TA have been presented to PARD staff as well as to a wider audience in ADB. These outputs have also been presented by ADB staff as well as by the consultants in various national as well as international workshops/seminars/conferences and at the 10th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC. A total of 9 presentations have been made in Manila, Suva, Apia, Guam, Bonn, Japan, and Buenos Aires. The TA also provided inputs to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCCC), and the World Bank's Pacific Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Policy Note: Building on Lessons Learned in Natural Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation in the Pacific Island Region. The term "climate proofing", introduced by the TA, has now been globally accepted and used in various international communications and documents. Overall, the TA has produced substantial outputs, and provided important contributions to methods for climate change adaptation.

Overall Assessment and Rating

The TA implementation is rated as highly successful. It has achieved its major objectives of reviewing completed and ongoing programs on climate change related issues, produced documents for mainstreaming climate change adaptation into ADB project operations, and successfully undertook country level case studies on mainstreaming adaptation at the national development planning, sector, and project levels. A key output (National Guidelines for Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change) has been adopted by the government of the case study countries. The TA has paved the way to the formulation of the TA outputs which in many cases are new findings, and has contributed significantly to the way climate change adaptation should be implemented. In general the TA has provided a viable foundation for the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation into programs and projects, and into country economic development plans. This will improve the effectiveness of adaptation to climate change and weather extremes, although the full implementation of the recommendations has yet to be attained and will take several more years.

Major Lessons Learned

Case studies were an effective and useful tool for assessing the local situation, and can be used as the basis for formulating and mainstreaming climate change adaptation into project, regulation, short- and mid-term policy and planning at sub-national level, and national strategic development planning levels. The strong commitment of all parties involved in the TA implementation (particularly ADB, Governments, and the consultants), and the credibility of the consultants and the counterpart staff, who worked hard during the TA implementation, have been instrumental in the successful implementation of the TA. Climatic data (particularly rainfall, temperature, wind, sea level) is key to characterizing the future climate situation and changes, however collection of such detailed climatic data has been a real challenge throughout the study, because such data was not readily available in the country. A climate change modeling program (called SIMCLIM) is complex and needs special skill to operate it, therefore analysis of climatic data could only be done by persons specifically trained to use the program.

Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions

During the tripartite meeting at the final review missions in both countries, participants acknowledged the useful findings of the TA and the need to disseminate these findings to other Pacific countries through replication of the case studies, or through presentation of TA findings and recommendations in regional workshops. The TA output that has recently been published, consisting of (i) main publication "Climate Proofing: A Risk-based Approach to Adaptation", and (ii) small booklet "Summary for Policy and Decision Makers" will be widely disseminated to other Pacific countries to enable them to learn lessons from the TA findings and recommendations.