



Prime Minister Samoa, Opening of Lessons Learned for Future Action Conference, Apia, Samoa, 23 May 2011. Photo courtesy of SPREP.

The future of the Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Small Island Developing States

The Pacific and Caribbean regions have initiated a new partnership with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC). The signing was the climax of a five-day conference co-hosted by SPREP and the Australian Government on Lessons Learned for Future Action – Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Small Island Developing States.

Around 150 participants gathered in Samoa for the event from 28 countries, mostly from the Pacific, Caribbean and Indian Ocean regions. All 15 Pacific ACP countries participated (Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu), and 9 Caribbean ACP countries (Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Grenada, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago). One of the conference aims was to strengthen links between the three regions, recognizing the common issues and challenges shared by small island developing states in addressing the issue of a changing climate. Professionals in the fields of climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) came together to share their experiences and look for synergies between the two, drawing on the extensive experience which exists within the three regions. Lessons learned were discussed under five topics: information and awareness raising, national planning and policy frameworks, community based responses, strategies and on-ground options, and capacity development. Three field trips illustrated the achievements and issues of Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction on

the ground in Samoa, looking specifically at coastal adaptation, water issues and tsunami impact and recovery.

Participants reiterated the particular vulnerability of small island development states, and also recognised the diversity of climate change and disaster response challenges facing them given their different character (volcanic islands to small atolls), geographic, social and economic circumstances. The nature of the challenge was clearly captured by Dr Michael Taylor of the University of the West Indies, in his words: "Climate has changed, climate will continue to change, climate demands change". Conference outcomes include the recognition that programmatic approaches are needed, together with new partnerships and alliances to implement them.

In order to give immediate impetus to the new collaboration, SPREP and the CCCCC, in consultation with other partners, agencies and countries will: Develop a draft regional framework for capacity building with relevance to national scales spanning institutional, programmatic and individual scales of capacity building; establish collaborative research networks to examine common challenges and needs initially focusing on coral reefs, coastal processes and coastal modeling; develop exchange programmes and learning networks within and between regions in order to share lessons learned and best practices.

In support of this, a South-South exchange will be funded from the ACP MEAs project between the Pacific and Caribbean region, focusing specifically on strengthening and enhancing the endogenous capacity of ACP countries to effectively implement and comply with MEAs and related commitments,

and thereby improve management of the environment and the natural resources.

The conference was funded under the International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative by the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, Australia.

Dr. Jill Key, Capacity Development Adviser, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

African Hub (AUC)

Tertiary institutes in four countries (Mali, Mauritius, Ethiopia and DRC Congo) received education material now used by students and academia to raise awareness about MEAs in ACP countries. The Africa Hub provided additional financial support to the Abidjan Convention Secretariat for the organization of the 9th Meeting of Contracting Parties in Accra, Ghana from 28 March-2 April 2011. Parties at this meeting agreed among other things, to submit the draft Land-based Sources of Pollution (LBSA) Protocol for review and approval by countries for adoption at the next COPs meeting in end 2011. The Africa Hub organized a workshop in Libreville, Gabon in 20-21 April 2011, to validate the ECCAS study on areas of environment and natural resources management in view of sub-regional harmonization in ECCAS Member States. It was recommended to develop a regional protocol for management of certain areas of environment and natural resources, to harmonize identified areas of natural resources and to develop MOUs between countries that need to harmonize their natural resources management laws and programs. The recommendations were incorporated in the workshop draft report, which will be validated as final report. With support from the African Hub an AUC African expert on biosafety participated in a workshop on Capacity Building for the use of Integrated Environmental Assessments and for Mainstreaming MEAs into Policy Development and Implementation organized by the Caribbean Hub, in 29 March-1 April 2011, in Paramaribo, Suriname. The workshop focused among others, on commitments in MEAs related to biosafety and protected areas. It allowed exchange of experiences between the African biosafety expert and Caribbean participants that will support the AUC Department of Science and Technology to develop customs biosafety guidelines in Africa in 2011. The Africa Hub agreed with the Basel Convention Regional Centre (BCRC) Dakar that BCRC Dakar will hold a waste management workshop in September 2011 in Dakar, to strengthen the capacity of national and sub-regional private enterprises in MEAs implementation. For further information, please contact Coordinators Ms. Fatoumata Ndoye (fnjallow@yahoo.com) and Mr. Livingstone Sindsaygaya (sindayigayal@yahoo.com).

Caribbean Hub (CARICOM)

The Caribbean Hub has a packed and exciting schedule over the next quarter 2011. The Hub delivered the first of four National Legislative Drafting Workshops in collaboration with UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) in Guyana, 7-10 June 2011. This workshop specifically targets Legal Drafters. The Hub is developing a learning kit, in association with the Caribbean Hotel Energy Action Project (CHENACT), which will focus on the Montreal Protocol and its contribution to improved energy efficiency in the small- and medium-sized hotels in the Caribbean. It is also producing a compilation of Caribbean Best Practices in direct correlation with achievements of MEAs; continuing work on the MEAs Database and Media Kits, producing a DVD on MEAs by the end of June and participating in the activities of African and Pacific Hubs scheduled for April and June. For additional information please contact the interim Caribbean Hub Coordinator, Ms. Anya Thomas (anya@caricom.org).

Pacific Hub (SPREP)

Third year of project implementation began with national training on mainstreaming in Apia, Samoa 28 March-1 April and Alofi, Niue 18-21 April, with invaluable input from UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. A follow-up workshop in Suva, Fiji, 14 April, on Clearing House Mechanisms identified the scope, content and format of the CHM. Activities in the second quarter will include national training on mainstreaming in Funafuti, Tuvalu, 11-19 May, and negotiation skills in Dili, Timor Leste, 9-13 May,



Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Samoa, National training workshop on mainstreaming of MEAs, 28 Mar-1 Apr 2011, Apia, Samoa. Photo courtesy of SPREP.

regional workshops in Nadi, Fiji 16-20 May, on implementing the Nagoya outcomes, and Suva, Fiji, 25-29 July, on data collection for waste management, and the mid-term review of the project. For further information please contact the Pacific Hub coordinator Dr. Jill Key (Jillk@sprep.org).

UNEP Risoe Centre

A national workshop to improve knowledge and skills on formulating Project Design Documents (PDDs), financing CDM projects and assessing the CDM project developers' sustainable development contribution was organized for public and private sector stakeholders in Gaborone, on 23-24 February 2011. This was followed by a consultative session with experts from the energy sector to identify potential CDM projects. A first national workshop on CDM was held in Angola (9-10 March) and São Tome and Principe (1-2 March) to raise awareness and provide knowledge on CDM to a selected audience and identify potential CDM projects



Regional Designated National Authorities Workshop, Havana, 22-24 March 2011.
Photo courtesy of Risoe.

in relevant sectors in both countries. In the Caribbean region, Havana hosted a regional workshop for DNAs on 22-24 March. Fifty-six participants from 13 Caribbean countries addressed CDM progress, barriers and opportunities in the region, discussing common regulatory bottlenecks, possible solutions and future roles in climate change mitigation. On 29 March-1 April the third national workshop took place in Havana, where 35 participants learned how to select and use a baseline methodology and how to deal with Designated Operational Entities (DOEs) for the validation and verification processes and as well as with different legal instruments to sell the Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) produced by CDM projects. Trinidad and Tobago hosted their First National CDM Capacity Building Workshop, on 12-13 April, 2011. Thirty-five participants gained knowledge and information on how to identify CDM projects and how to formulate Project Idea Notes (PINs) and PDDs. This was followed by a one-day sectoral workshop on 14 April, focusing on the energy sector, where potential project ideas were discussed. The third and revised edition of the CDM Information and Guidebook was produced and is currently being disseminated to stakeholders ([http://www.acp-cd4cdm.org/publications/publication-archive/2011/03/cdm-information-and-guidebook-\(third-edition\).aspx](http://www.acp-cd4cdm.org/publications/publication-archive/2011/03/cdm-information-and-guidebook-(third-edition).aspx)). For further

information please contact Coordinator at the UNEP Risoe Centre, Ms. Miriam Hinostroza (milh@risoe.dtu.dk).

SAICM Secretariat

Ten QSP projects were approved under the ACP MEAs project covering countries in Djibouti, Mauritius, Burundi and Rwanda, the CILSS member states (Burkina Faso, Chad, Gambia, Mauritania and Niger), in the Pacific Islands (Cook Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga), Mali and Senegal, Uganda, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Saint Lucia. Progress has been made in particular the two-country project in Burundi and Rwanda and the multi-country project in the Pacific Islands. Burundi and Rwanda project on strengthening of capacity for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention held its inception workshops in April and May in each respective country. As a result, the endorsement and engagement of all stakeholders on their participation in the implementation of project activities was successfully concluded with the adoption of the work plan and Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee. Similarly, the multi-country project for the establishment of a pilot network of poison information desks to deal with chemicals-related poisoning has resulted in the finalization of the poison profiles in each participating country. This will contribute to the



Inception Workshop of Institutional capacity building for implementing of the Stockholm Convention on POPs and awareness raising on POPs issues, Burundi, 15 April 2011.
Photo courtesy of SAICM.

purpose of the information network in providing key services to the stakeholders involved in the five countries. Further, preparation for the installation of a web based poisoning management database (TOXINZ) containing information regarding toxic compounds and management of poisoning cases is underway. A data management system to deal with chemical poisoning (INTOX) is being installed. This will enhance the sub-regional capacity on poison prevention programmes and strengthen chemical management in the Pacific Islands. For further information please contact Ms Nora Silva at the SAICM secretariat (nora.silva@unep.org).

FAO

A postgraduate diploma on pesticide risk management was launched at the University of Cape Town (UCT) on 28 March 2011. The course is a result of a close collaboration between FAO, UTC and the Swedish Chemicals Inspectorate (KEMI). In the Africa Region, an agreement was signed with PAN Africa to develop a communication strategy on the impact of pesticides on public health and environment and to promote alternatives to conventional chemicals in CILSS countries (Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal). FAO has also entered into an agreement with the Comité Sahélien des Pesticides (CSP) Secretariat to develop post registration activities in CILSS countries. In the Caribbean Region, the ACP MEAs project has provided expertise to review the national registration systems of Caribbean ACP countries. A follow-up Caribbean Group of Pesticide Control-Boards (CGPC) meeting took



Participants in the inaugural Postgraduate Diploma in Pesticide Risk Management, Cape Town, 28 March 2011. Photo courtesy of FAO.

place on 6-11 June 2011 in Jamaica for the pesticide registrars to plan the way towards regional harmonization. In the Pacific Region, at the FAO/SPREP/UNEP meeting held on 11-14 April 2011 in Nadi, Fiji, a detailed scope for the containers management and contaminated site component for the region was developed. A Pacific pesticide regulators meeting to design a regional system for pesticide registration took place in Wellington, New Zealand on 23-28 May 2011. At the Stockholm Convention COP-5 held in Geneva, Switzerland on 25-29 April 2011, FAO reported on activities on the management of pesticides in Africa including those supported by the ACP MEAs project. For additional information please contact Mr. Mark Davis (mark.davis@fao.org).

UNCCD GM

The GM jointly with the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) organized an international workshop in Costa Rica in April 2011 that aimed at considering the analytical framework to identify relevant existing “incentive and market based mechanisms” (IMBMs) which could be put in place to promote Sustainable Land Management (SLM) investments. In West Africa ECOWAS and the GM engaged a study concerning the identification of barriers to SLM and transboundary natural resources investments in that specific region. These studies will feed the scope-acp website aiming to encourage discussions between stakeholders on building new partnerships for resource mobilization. For more information please contact Mr. Youssef Brahimi (y.brahimi@global-mechanism.org).

Green Week (24-27 May 2011)



UNEP Executive-Director, Achim Steiner and UNEP intern, Céline Fréchou at the United Nations stand at the Green Week, Brussels, 26 May 2011. Photo courtesy of UNRIC.

The 11th edition of Green Week, the biggest annual conference on European environment policy took place in end May 2011 in Brussels. This year's theme was “Resource Efficiency - Using less, living better”. Over some 40 sessions, the conference addressed the problem of resource depletion and scarcity, and the challenges and opportunities presented by constraints on resources. The conference also showcased public and private strategies that are promoting a shift towards lower carbon use and a more efficient use of resources. The ACP MEAs project was presented to the UNEP Executive-Director, Achim Steiner at the United Nations stand. For further information, please contact Sandrine Marquès (sandrine.marques@unep.org) and consult: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/>

This newsletter is published quarterly and includes opinion pieces by the programme partners as well as an update of latest developments. For more information on ACP MEAs please contact:

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