PEBACC FACT SHEET

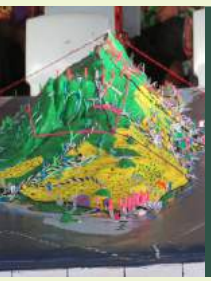
PACIFIC ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE PACIFIC ISLAND REGION

Climate change poses a serious challenge to sustainable development in Pacific island countries and territories. Rising sea levels, changing weather patterns, ocean warming and ocean acidification impact all sectors of the economy. In addition, island resilience is affected by a number of non-climate related factors such as pollution, inappropriate coastal development and over-fishing that impact negatively on island ecosystems resulting in ecosystem degradation, loss of ecosystem services and biodiversity. It is therefore imperative that Pacific island countries and territories invest in appropriate and cost-effective options to simultaneously address climate and non-climate factors as a strategy to manage the impacts of climate change. Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) is a holistic approach to adaptation planning that seeks to harness the potential of healthy ecosystems and biodiversity to strengthen social and ecological resilience.

WHAT IS PEBACC?

PEBACC is a five year project implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to explore and promote ecosystem-based options for adapting to climate change. The project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag. The overall intended outcome of the project is: EbA is integrated into development, climate change adaptation responses, and natural resource management policy and planning processes in three Pacific island countries providing replicable models for other countries in the region.



WHAT WILL PEBACC DO?

PEBACC has four outputs:

1. Ecosystem and socio-economic resilience analysis and mapping (ESRAM) completed as a basis for adaptation planning at national, provincial and community levels.
2. EbA options analysed, prioritised and plans developed.
3. EbA plans implemented with demonstrated benefits.
4. Communications and outreach products developed to promote integration of EbA options into climate change policies, plans and projects.

PEBACC PROJECT TIMELINE AND BUDGET

PEBACC will run from 2014–2019 and has a budget of €4.95 million

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Supported by:
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety
based on a decision of the German Bundestag

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The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION

PROMOTING NATURAL SOLUTIONS FOR ISLAND RESILIENCE

WHAT IS ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION (EBA)?

"Ecosystem-based Adaptation is the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services, as part of an overall adaptation strategy, to help people to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change... it aims to maintain and increase the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of ecosystems and people in the face of adverse effects of climate change." CBD 2009

What are the benefits of EbA?

Having a healthy environment around us secures our supply of freshwater and other natural resources. These are called 'ecosystem services' and are the added benefits that do not come when 'hard' engineered adaptation solutions, such as when seawalls are built.

But what is adaptation?

Adaptation is making changes in order to reduce the vulnerability of a community, society or system to the negative effects of climate change.

When is EbA the best adaptation option?

There are many different approaches to adaptation. The best option will reduce the vulnerability of a group of people in the most cost effective way over the long term. This could be through conventional adaptation, EbA or a combination of both.

The ability to compare EbA with conventional solutions will need to be built through effective monitoring of and evaluation of current EbA projects and by building the capacity of local decision-makers to select the best adaptation options available.

In the Pacific, how can EbA help us adapt?

By protecting intact ecosystems, managing natural resources and restoring degraded ecosystems.

For example, steep slopes in our region are often stabilised by deep rooted vegetation. As rainfall is expected to be more intense in the future, this natural buffer protects communities from flooding and landslides and also ensures that reefs are healthy by reducing the impact of sediment flows from erosion.

Keeping forests intact, or replanting them, also provides a source of building materials, crops and firewood.

Water catchments are also protected and in the sea, healthy reefs can then support greater fish populations.

Where can I get more information?

For further information about EbA and the PEBACC Project, visit www.sprep.org/pebacc.

About SPREP

SPREP is the primary intergovernmental environmental organisation working in the Pacific. Visit www.sprep.org for more information about the work of SPREP in the region.