



1. Practice Area: RESPAC Project, Resilience and Sustainable Development Team, UNDP Pacific Office
2. Service Line(s): Disaster Risk Reduction/Climate Change Adaptation

3. Mission Period (incl. of travel days):

From: 05 June 2016

To: 12 June 2016

4. Type of Service/Mission

- Advocacy
- Analysis
- Policy Advice
- Programme / Technical Backstopping
- Resource Person
- Regional Technical Consultations
- Training / Capacity Development
- Others (specify):

5. Client(s)

- UNDP (Internal)
- Government of Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI)
- Government of Palau
- Government of PNG
- Government of Samoa

6. Purpose of Mission:

To attend the regional consultative meeting on El-Nino in Bangkok and to meet with the Disaster Risk focal points in the Bangkok Regional Hub

7. Documents, Materials, Resources from Mission

- Powerpoint Presentation on Fiji El Nino Situation developed with Fiji Meteorological Services
- El Nino Workshop Outcome Document, Methodology + Workshop Materials
- ASEAN Disaster Recovery Reference Guide (draft)

8. Mission Member(s) (include consultants if any)

Fiji

- Mr. Yogesh Maharaj – Fiji Meteorological Services
- Mr. Navin Bhan – RESPAC Consultant

Marshall Islands

- Mr. Kennedy Glanry – National Disaster Management Office, Marshall Islands
- Mr. Richardo Jarom – Environment Protection Authority, EPA

Palau

- Mr. Earnest Ongidobel, Koror State, Govt. of Palau.
- Mr. Mannix Blaluk, Govt. of Palau
- Ms. Dilwei M. Ngemaes, Meteorologist in Charge,
- Ms. Bernice Sidoi, Horticulture and Extension Officer, Bureau of Agriculture

9. Cost (for RCC staff only)

Ticket – USD1,200 + DSA Terminals – USD1,400
Total = USD2,600

Papua New Guinea

- Mr. Andrew Emilio Oaego, Assistant Director Operations, National Disaster Center
- Mr. Steven Tobessa, Coordinator, Provincial Disaster & Emergency Services, Milne bay
- Mr. Francis Daink, Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Livestock

Samoa

- Ms. Faapisa Tusifolau Muao Aiono, Senior Scientific Officer, Meteorology Division,

10. Brief Summary of the Mission:

10A. Findings

Regional Consultative Workshop on El-Nino (7 – 9 June)

As per the workshop outcome document, the major findings were:

- i) **Data & Monitoring:** Levels of technical capacity vary across Asia-Pacific. Availability of appropriate data and information management is a challenge. Data analysis can be of limited quality. Identified need for keeping pace with new technologies. Requirement for tailored products to meet needs of different stakeholders.
- ii) **Institutional:** Synergy across sectors is required, with a need for dialogues between weather forecasting centres and those applying the knowledge to design and implement effective preparedness measures to

mitigate El Niño's impact. Strengthening coordination with local government units is required, in terms of impact assessment in different domains (biophysical, socioeconomic etc.) and responding to slow-onset events. Roles and responsibilities of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) to be outlined better.

- iii) **Operationalization into Decision-Making:** There are diverse climate regimes and no one strategy fits all. Decision-makers need to better understand forecasts for particular locations, seasons and time periods. From the regional level, preparedness should be boosted. Potentially engaging in contingency planning – making the El Nino impact outlooks more generic to include La Niña and labelling them ENSO impact outlooks

Technical Support from Bangkok Regional Hub (BRH) on RESPAC implementation

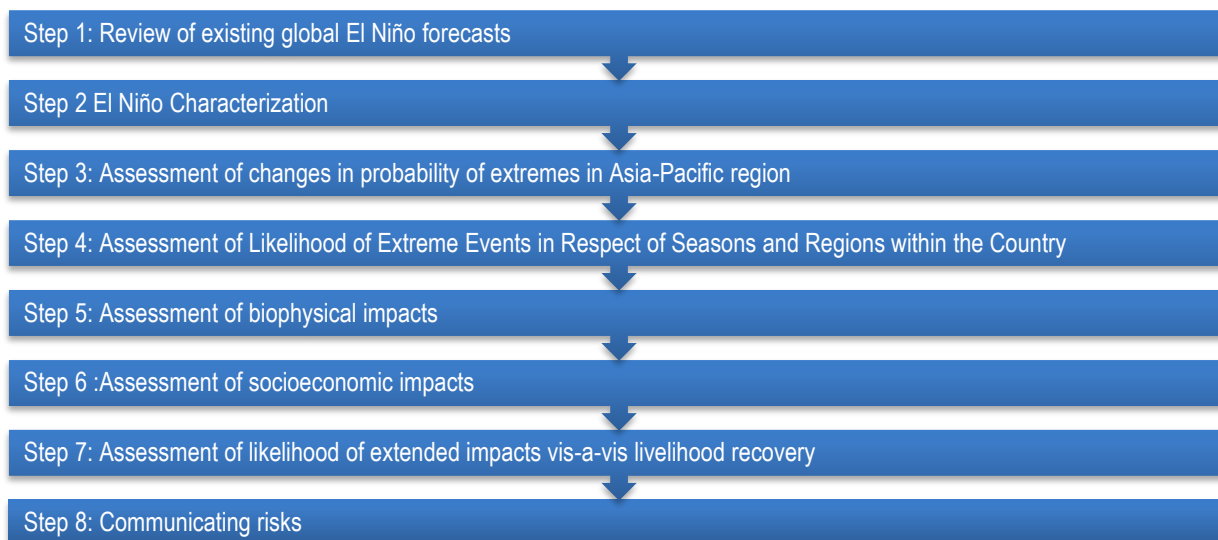
During the course of the mission, scheduled meetings with Mr. Sanny Jegilos and Mr. Rajesh Sharma from the BRH, who offered support and advise on how to address the implementation of the RESPAC Project. Key findings from these discussions are as follows:

- BRH (Disaster Response Team) is available to support the implementation of the RESPAC project.
- Specific areas of support under RESPAC include for **Component 1 – Developing capacity for early warning systems**; technical support can be provided for the capacity development of the countries for improved early warning.
- **Under component 2 – Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery**; Setting up disaster loss and damage databases. These databases will also help in monitoring and reporting for the Sendai Framework and SDGs targets and indicators. Specific to recovery actions, BRH can support to produce Recovery Guides and imparting training to stakeholders. The latest version of the ASEAN Recovery guidelines was provided as reference.

10B. Results Achieved (concrete outputs)

Regional Consultative Workshop on El-Nino (7 – 9 June)

The major result of this workshop was the development of an El Nino Assessment Guide together with related training manuals and guidelines. A summary of the step by step process of the Assessment Guide is as follows:



For a more detailed account of the step wise process, it is advisable to refer to the training manual which provides additional explanation in a simple, non-technical and easy to understand language.

10C. Expected Outcome(s) and Impact

Regional Consultative Workshop on El-Nino (7 – 9 June)

In addition to the outcomes mentioned in the El-Nino workshop summary report, it is important for the UNDP Pacific Office to seriously consider a pragmatic approach to start re-defining its role in post disaster situations, whether it is slow (El-Nino induced Drought) or rapid onset (Typhoon, Cyclones, Flooding, etc). This change of approach will need to be carried out in consultation with regional partners/agencies as well as national governments through and during the roll-out of UNDP disaster related flagship projects such as the Pacific Risk

Resilience Programme (PRRP) and the Disaster Resilience in Pacific SIDS (RESPAC). The merger of the UNDP MCO and Pacific Center into the UNDP Pacific Offices presents an excellent chance to expand the UNDP's role from a hitherto narrow and recovery centric activities to a more expanded and encompassing role on preparedness and response phases of disasters. It is acknowledged that UNDP's global mandate has significantly limited its focus to the recovery phase of disasters, but the recent adaptation of the global (5-10-50 programme) has somewhat enhanced and broadened UNDP's mandate to simultaneously participate and strengthen pre-disaster preparedness and coordination efforts. Additionally, the regional PRRP and RESPAC projects gives UNDP Pacific Office an injection of resources to enable it play a more expanded role in support of national capacities and coordination with other regional actors. It should be noted that UNDP led post disaster interventions focused on early recovery such as cash for work, debris collection and livelihoods support have short term impact and do not make full use of UNDP's expertise in the long term. Given that the "re-modelled" UNDP Pacific Office is centered on 3 themes (i.e., Governance, Inclusive Growth and Resilience and Sustainable Development), UNDP has few but significant options in how it can address climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction related issues. UNDP can choose to adopt a conservative position and focus only on helping relevant Government Agencies associated with Disaster Management and Climate Change or alternatively, it can take a more robust and cross sectoral approach whereby it utilizes its full capacity across the 3 thematic areas to address structural and institutional capacities of Government agencies entrusted with CCA/DRM issues but also at the same time bringing to the fore other institutions such as the Parliament, Private Sector, and Civil Society. In this latter role, UNDP leverages its full capacity and elevates itself as one of the few global institutions that can stimulate simultaneously local, regional and global actions involving multiple and broad based stakeholders on pertinent issues like CCA/DRR.

The onus therefore should be on the UNDP implemented PRRP and RESPAC projects to broaden UNDP's role in Disaster Recovery and both will need to coordinate and come up with a joint approach to redefining and re-establishing UNDP's role during pre-disaster and disaster phases.

11. Key counterpart (s) and persons you met in each location and their contact details:

Name:

Refer to full list of participants attached as Annex 1

Contact Information:

UNDP

Mr. Sanny Ramos Jegillos, Senior Advisor, Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery (sanny.jegillos@undp.org)

Mr. Rajesh Sharma Programme Specialist (Global), Disaster Risk Information and Application (rajesh.sharma@undp.org)

UN-ESCAP

Mr. Sanjay Srivastava, Chief of Disaster Risk Reduction Section, IDD

Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES)

Dr. Govindarajalu Srinivasan, Chief Climate Scientist, Email: srini@rimes.int

12. Follow-up Action Matrix

Actions to be taken	By Whom	Expected Completion Date
Follow up report on country level actions on El-Nino	Navin/Yogesh – Fiji Kenny/Ricardo – RMI Maria Ngemes - Palau	End of August

13. Distribution List (BTOR sent to):

RESD Group Email