

Title: Ways to undertake capacity development to safeguard water assets and communities from climate change impacts

Lead convenor: Flood Community of Practice c/o International WaterCentre, Griffith University, Australia

Partners on the day

- IWC - Piet Filet and Suliasi Batikawai
- Fijian Knowledge Exchange – Study Tour participants from Ministry of Finance, Strategic Planning, • The Pacific Community (SPC) - Jacqui Read
- Consulting and commercial partners –Bluemont (flood emergency solutions) Paul Hart
- DFAT - Louise Scott

With a small group of interested parties we unpacked what were the steps and examples of building matching capacity needs. A workshop aim was to construct a conceptual view of what does capacity development for this challenge look like.

The options to build a capacity development program were based conversations from workshop activity and mapping where we:

1. Identified the various climate change impacts for each country of the Pacific
2. Listed what were the mechanisms being developed to or were absent to deal with climate change impacts
3. Considered through an informal audit or assessment what mechanisms eg policy – legislation – strategy – implementation programs – awareness raising – public education – (i) meeting the needs, (ii) needed more skills to progress or (iii) which were absent and needed
4. Match in group (ii) and (iii) suitable activities to build professional and organizational capacity

Examples of various capacity building programs were discussed including:

- Nadi Flood Alleviation Project and how a study tour to Australia for Fijian government officials provided first hand experience on what was possible
- Hydrological monitoring methodology training to help Pacific countries look at flood forecasting need through SPC
- Various engagement strategy and methodology for engagement team – WaterAid

In conclusion, a simple conceptual model was shared based on steps 1 to 4 as a way to depict the needs. There was an agreement that any opportunity to further refine and expand this capacity building model would be ideal.