



Institute for
Sustainable
Futures



**Australia Pacific
Climate Partnership**

Climate change action through civil society programs SCOPING REPORT

September 2021

Prepared for The Australia Pacific Climate Partnership
Support Unit
by the Institute for Sustainable Futures
University of Technology Sydney



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Contents

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Background	1
3.	Objective	2
4.	Phases of work	2
5.	Completed activities in Stage A: Knowledge gap analysis and scoping	2
6.	Key findings	3
6.1	Understandings of drivers and practice of and climate change and disaster resilience integration	3
6.2	Work already being done in climate change integration in civil society programming in the Pacific	5
6.3	Opportunities to strengthen integration and best ways to contribute to this change	7
7.	Implications for design	8

1. Introduction

This document sets out the extent of work completed and findings from Stage A of the activity, Climate Change Action through Civil Society Programs. The activity has been completed by the Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney (ISF-UTS) on behalf of the Australian Pacific Climate Partnership (APCP) Support Unit (SU). The Scoping Report constitutes Milestone 2 within the Task Order (TO-6) relevant to this activity.

2. Background

Pacific islands are extremely vulnerable to climate change. The most substantial impacts of climate change include losses of coastal infrastructure and land, more intense cyclones and droughts, failure of subsistence crops and coastal fisheries, losses of coral reefs and mangroves, and the spread of certain diseases. Climate change will affect the Pacific way of life and the sustainable development of islands in profound ways such as:

- Heat stress and heat damage to people and production systems
- Changes in sea chemistry and temperature, leading to reef ecosystem and livelihood degradation
- Sea flooding and salt contamination of water and food systems
- Successive storms and cyclones with no time for recovery
- More intense drought and water shortages, reduced water security
- Collapse of productive land and sea ecosystems, livelihoods and food security
- Threats to natural coastal defences and habitability of low-lying locations
- Threats to physical and mental health, health security and health systems

Australian-based non-government organisations (ANGOs) have a long history of working in the Pacific.

There are currently a range of different funding programs which support the link between ANGOs and development initiatives in the Pacific. Connections, networks and funding arrangements include:

- Australian NGO Cooperation Agreement (ANCP)
- The Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP)
- CAN DO (network of Australian church-based aid and development agencies with long-established relationships in humanitarian and development programs in the Pacific region)
- Water for Women Fund
- Donations from the Australian community

The APCP SU and ISF-UTS held a participatory workshop on 10 March 2021 to discuss how climate change risk is integrated into future planning and decision-making in the Pacific; communities are informed and informing climate change action; Pacific communities have strengthened resilience including to climate change. In order to achieve this long-term impact, it was agreed that more work could be done with ANGOs to influence and contribute to this agenda.

The intent is for climate change knowledge (science) to be used by ANGOs and mainstreamed with all programming activities with communities, sub-national and national government, private sector and civil society including faith-based organisations (FBOs). The proposed phases of work below seek to influence and contribute to ANGO organisational mandate and to skill ANGO staff to operationalise climate change

integration in development and humanitarian programming in the Pacific. This detailed methodology focuses on Phase 1.

3. Objective

To contribute to broader resilience in the Pacific, including the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FDRP) which sets out an integrated approach to address climate change and disaster risk (2017-2030), and importantly, to support Pacific governments achieve their goals for locally driven climate action. Similarly, DFAT's Climate Change Action Strategy (2020-2025) notes the need to integrate climate change action across Australia's development assistance program. In order to transform practice, a systems change is required within the ANGO sector, such that climate change integration, use of relevant resources and knowledge on climate change is adopted as standard inclusion within design, implementation, M&E.

4. Phases of work

This Scoping Report is focused on **Stage A: Knowledge gap analysis and scoping**. Through a series of activities, the change opportunity has been explored; the scope of this initiative within a broader system change defined; what is already happening (to build on) scoped; and clear processes and protocols for stakeholder engagement established.

Stage A informs subsequent work – **Stage B: Design**. Within this stage the team will prepare a design aimed to strengthen climate change integration in civil society programming, led through ANGO partnerships in the Pacific. The design will include scope of production of resources, materials communications and training practices and monitoring and learning initiatives to assess progress towards desired change outcomes. It is expected that pilot activities will be established to learn about, assess and refine produced resources, materials, communications and training resources.

This Report is focused within Phase 1 of two phases of work. As described above, the first phase is focused on scoping and defining a design of scope of work to strengthen ANGO integration of climate change and disaster resilience. Phase 2 will be focused on delivery of the agreed design.

5. Completed activities in Stage A: Knowledge gap analysis and scoping

As planned in the detailed methodology, a series of activities have been completed. Further details of outcomes relevant to each are provided in section 6 below.

Planned Activity	Work conducted
Activity 1: Define systems and theory of change ¹ related to climate change integration in civil society programming	2 workshops held with Reference Group: 21 July 28 July
Activity 2: Establish Reference Group and stakeholder engagement plan for scope of work	Reference Group established and meetings held: 23 June 21 July 28 July

¹ System is loosely defined as the Australian aid sector for NGOs, focused on governance, funding, program guidance, requirements and incentives for climate change action. Theory of change considers how best to influence climate change action through civil society programs.

		25 August 27 September (planned)
Activity 3:	Map ANGO programming relevant to Pacific climate change risks including specific geographic and sector-based risks	Analysis of four DFAT funded programs with focus on ANGO programming in the Pacific AHP, ANCP, Water for Women, <i>Pacific Women</i>
Activity 4:	Identify what is already being done in climate change integration in civil society programming in the Pacific (relevant to DFAT funding / beyond DFAT)	Informed by document review and 5 key informant interviews 3 Australian-based representatives 2 Pacific island representatives
Activity 5:	Identify opportunities to strengthen integration and best ways to contribute to this change	Informed by document review and 5 key informant interviews 3 Australian-based representatives 2 Pacific island representatives

Stage B: Design, includes planned activities (still to be completed):

Activity 6: Feedback to reference group and key stakeholders' findings from scoping phase

Activity 7: Define scope of work and complement to other activities and processes engaging in other aspects of systems change related to strengthening climate change integration in civil society programming

Activity 8: Design scope of work such as scope of production of resources, materials communications and training practices and monitoring and learning initiatives to assess progress towards desired change outcomes

6. Key findings

This section is structured into three main areas of focus:

- (i) understandings of drivers and practice of climate change and disaster resilience integration;
- (ii) work already being done in climate change integration in civil society programming in the Pacific; and
- (iii) opportunities to strengthen integration and best ways to contribute to this change.

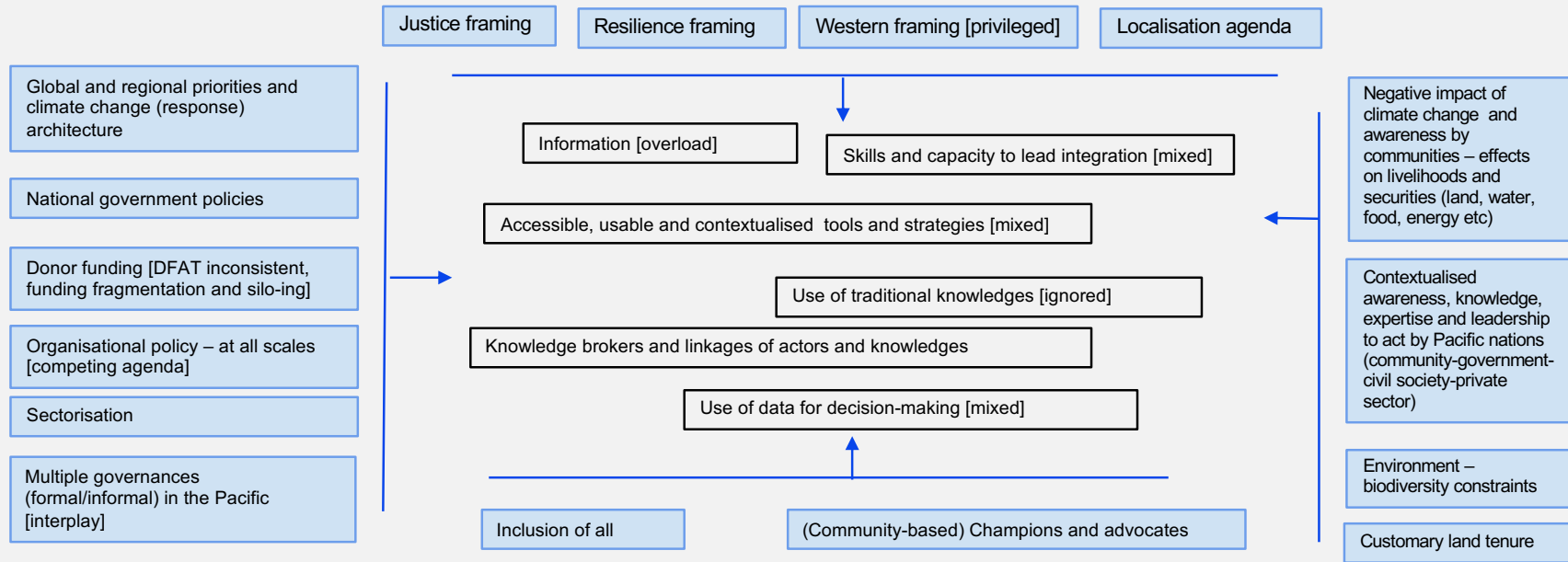
Each section also offers reflection of what key findings offer to design a scope of work to support ANGO practice of integration of climate change and disaster resilience in the Pacific.

6.1 Understandings of drivers and practice of climate change and disaster resilience integration

Through participatory processes in online workshops (Activity 1) with the Reference Group, we generated a rich picture of the drivers and practice of integration of climate change and disaster resilience by ANGOs in the Pacific.

- Workshop 1 – small groups identified drivers and practice
- The research team consolidated inputs and presented back to the group a [draft] rich picture
- Workshop 2 – Reference Group members provided review and reflection on the [draft] rich picture
- The research team revised the figure – see below **Error! Reference source not found.**

The practice of integration of climate change and disaster resilience by ANGOs in the Pacific



Brief description:

On the outside of the figure are broad types of drivers of ANGO climate change integration – (i) sets of conceptual framing (at the top), (ii) priorities and policies at different scales (on the left); (iii) realities of impact of CC, needs of Pacific communities and contextualised expertise awareness and leadership for action (on the right); and (iv) agendas of advocates/champions and inclusion principles (at the bottom).

These different types of drivers could be positive or negative - and should be considered as informing ANGO integration of climate change and disaster resilience.

On the inside of the figure are the elements of the practice of integration which are mixed (strong/weak) as indicated by [brackets] for most.

Figure 1: Drivers and practice of integration of climate change and disaster resilience by ANGOs in the Pacific

Reference Group members were invited to provide feedback on the figure, and when asked “*What are priority considerations (from figure 1) to best support ANGO integration of climate change?*”, the majority of responses could be grouped under the following headings:

- Contextualizing and valuing all knowledges
- Justice framing
- Localisation
- Inclusion of all

The figure was also used to prompt conversation during key informant interviews². Through these interviews the content within the figure was validated. Key insights include:

- **Accurate reflection of climate change and disaster resilience integration:** ANGO and Pacific interviewees described how almost every aspect of the figure resonated with their experiences, providing examples from their work. Three most commonly referenced aspects of the figure were localisation agenda, knowledge brokering and skills and capacity to lead integration, as described further below.
- **Localisation agenda:** ANGO interviewees described how they were finding new ways to engage with local partners, and reframing how power, influence and information works within programming in the Pacific. ANGOs interviewees were reconsidering their roles with local partners, with some intentionally stepping back as leads / implementers to play more facilitation roles that leverage their influence and connections e.g. to funding, relationships to DFAT.
- **Knowledge brokering:** Interviewees recognised that there may be two levels of knowledge brokers – those who take climate science and contextualise to local contexts, and then those who then take contextualised knowledge to local decision makers and communities. Interviewees also noted that effective local knowledge brokering values and prioritises local knowledge and leadership capacity, and recognises and builds local leadership. This links closely to the localisation agenda and ANGOs intentionally stepping away from leading program implementation themselves.
- **Skills and capacity to lead integration:** Three interviewees (one Pacific and two ANGOs) described the importance of skills and capacity to lead integration, with one interviewee noting that Pacific partners hold considerable knowledge, such that ANGOs ‘expertise’ are not always required. Interviewee responses also linked to knowledge brokering (e.g. to contextualise climate science) and the need to appreciate and work with multiple governance structures.

6.2 Work already being done in climate change integration in civil society programming in the Pacific

This finding was informed by both Activity 3 ‘Map ANGO programming relevant to Pacific climate change risks including specific geographic and sector-based risks’ as well as interviews with ANGO and Pacific civil society representatives.

Please see Mapping of DFAT-funded ANGO activities Report for key findings (provided as separate attachment).

Through interviews with ANGO and Pacific civil society representatives, we identified examples of best practice integration of climate change and disaster resilience in civil society programs in the Pacific, as well as their enablers. These examples are summarised below.

² To note – due to connectivity issues – the figure was not able to be shared with one Pacific interviewee

Best practice examples	Enablers
<p>AHP’s Disaster READY program: five-year multi-country, multi-partner approach to support disaster risk reduction and preparedness. While climate change adaptation was not explicitly included in the design, in practice, adaptation is key to Disaster READY’s activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-year funding • Multiple partnerships across 4 PICs (PNG, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu) • Elements are government-led with civil society support • Includes integrating traditional knowledge with scientific early warning systems
<p>Women’s Weather Watch, Vanuatu: Simple SMS networking process for disaster preparedness that engages women’s networks to spread messages in times of disaster. Network was able to pivot to spread messages about COVID-19 as needed. Women leaders also engage with met officers to then share with their networks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong community support and community led • Works through existing women’s networks • Uses appropriate and available SMS technology to reach hundreds of thousands of women • ANGO (ActionAid) committed to facilitating local networks and pushing for local leadership and approaches
<p>Shifting the Power Coalition: A Pacific-women led Feminist Humanitarian Network of women leader’s committed to a transformed humanitarian system that promotes a feminist agenda. Its membership is comprised of women’s rights organisations and networks driving change in humanitarian contexts in the global South, INGOs, and individuals. ActionAid is the ANGO member of the coalition.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANGO (ActionAid) recognition of their role as facilitator and connector to DFAT and other INGOs/ANGOs • NGO recognising how power and information works in the Pacific • The impetus of a crisis (TC) was an enabler. It was instigated by a major cyclone in the Pacific, which spurred action • Pre-existing networks and relationships between ANGOs and Pacific organisations (and individuals within them) • Multiple organisations working on the same topic, keen to join forces for greater impact
<p>Environmental conservation in Vanuatu: Protecting and conserving the environment as a means to support livelihoods (sources of income e.g. eco-tourism)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vanuatu’s environmental protection laws • Sense amongst the population of the need to protect the environment • Community/ bottom up approach to environmental conservation, local NGOs respond to community requests e.g. to register to the area of conservation
<p>Community Adaptation Pathways in Solomon Islands: Plan International and WWF worked with two (each) of their partner communities to explore community-led pathways to adaptation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with existing partners • Led by high capacity local staff, supported by global WWF network • Consideration of climate change as an externality / another risk to account for • Systems thinking approach with communities • Working with government • Flexible funding, open ended about outcomes • Focused on governance and social development rather than climate change • CSIRO and ANU: “<i>the right kind of academics</i>” with strong cultural competency • Strength-based approach, identifying pre-existing adaptive capacity

<p>Papua New Guinea Livelihoods Project: Supporting communities to recognise the importance of healthy environments, whilst also identifying threats to building sustainable livelihoods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support communities to bring about change themselves • Combine awareness raising and community action • Understand local community-level contexts to develop appropriate support and materials for different members of the community • Local NGOs to act as knowledge brokers, connecting community with science (CSIRO) • Understand and respect local governance, working within existing structures (e.g. women's groups) • Value views of women, other genders and youth in local cultural contexts • Work with other gender experts e.g. CARE International • Sustainable livelihood options as an incentive to conservation
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A summary of enablers of best practice emerging from the interviews are provided below:

<p>Partnership and local leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term partnerships • Local civil society leadership • Civil society different ways of working • Working through existing governance 	<p>Informed by local community priorities and action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking livelihood and conservation • Community prioritised action • Civil society relationship with local government • Context specific • Community based governance • Women's leadership • Integration through resilience focus 	<p>Build from community strength</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start with community knowledge • Strengths-based perspective • Raising awareness of community
<p>Donor support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donor incentives • Funds and investment at sub-national • Informing donor policy 	<p>Linking actors and knowledge(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy – enabling of national government policy • Knowledge brokers – translators 	

6.3 Opportunities to strengthen integration and best ways to contribute to this change

This finding was informed by both Activity 3 'Map ANGO programming relevant to Pacific climate change risks including specific geographic and sector-based risks' as well as interviews with ANGO and Pacific civil society representatives.

Through the interviews, we identified suggestions to strengthen integration of climate change in civil society programming with a particular focus on the role of ANGOs. A summarised list of prioritised actions or ways of working are provided below.

<p>Advocacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANGO advocacy for climate action 	<p>Knowledge exchange</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANGO network or knowledge exchange 	<p>Policy framework as guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRDP as a guiding policy for ANGO integration
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources to support and advocate for integration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge or specialist hub or helpdesk Contextualised use of climate science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance or strategic framework from DFAT
<p>Partnership and linkages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ANGO role of linking government to CBOs and local NGOs ANGO to leverage funds for CBOs and local NGOs Value local partners as knowledge brokers 	<p>Twin track approach for integration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twin track mainstreaming of climate change (e.g. specialist climate change expertise, coupled with broad mainstreaming agenda across programming) 	<p>Valuing local knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employ a strength-based approach

Below is a summary of insights informed from the mapping of ANGO programming:

- Recognition of ANGO focus to date in four Melanesian countries – recognising those countries who have extensive ANGO support and those with little engagement. Consider who and how to engage with partners in local context
- Build from experience in DRR and CBDRM
- Ensure that climate change action is not a sector but integrated. For example, into livelihood and security realities of Pacific communities
- Promote, better coordinate and share lessons learned – ANGO and Pacific civil society
- Ensure inclusion of both rural and urban considerations – recognising little focus to data on urban climate change issues, despite high rates of urbanisation in the Pacific

7. Implications for design

Informed by Stage A: Knowledge gap analysis and scoping, we set out below key insights to inform a design/scope of work to support ANGO integration of climate change and disaster resilience.

This process revealed a broad range of insights into practice of ANGOs, practice in Pacific island contexts as well as with the broader sector. Through the different data sources, we revealed that a range of different considerations are required to support climate change integration many of which are outside the scope of action from the APCP. For example, donor policy and strategic guidance for integration, role and leadership of sub-national government in integration of climate change action.

Below we set out broad sets of insights.

Regional / sector level guidance

- Clear direction from DFAT is needed on their strategic approach for integration of climate change into Pacific programming
- Recognise the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) as the key Pacific led-strategy for guidance, and ensure ANGOs align to the guiding principles and goals included

Multiple pathways, entry points and scales for ANGOs to contribute to climate change integration

- ANGO's integration of climate change through multiple approaches: community level, practical integration at the project level; leveraging ANGOs connections and influence; supporting Pacific policy through proactive and intentional alignment with FRDP; and advocacy within Australian, regional and international contexts

Ways of working for climate change and disaster resilience integration

- Ensure that drivers of practice³ are acknowledged and utilised to inform practice of integration of climate change and disaster resilience
- Prioritise local leadership, including multiple forms of governance in the Pacific, advocates and champions and local experts
- Be informed by community priorities
- Recognise the role of government (national and sub-national) and align with government policies relating to climate change
- Acknowledge the various ways ANGOs work in the Pacific and with local partners, and how this is changing for some organisations as a result of the prioritised localisation and partnership agendas.
- Careful consideration of ANGO roles for integrating climate change, acknowledging the need to support and prioritise local knowledge, capacity and leadership
- Enable localisation agenda
- Prioritise a strengths-based approach acknowledging local knowledge, expertise and inherent capabilities for climate change action and disaster resilience

Integrated – non-sector approach to climate change and disaster resilience integration

- Consider twin-track approach to ‘mainstreaming’ integration
- Integration through resilience focus and livelihood and security priorities of Pacific communities – not ‘climate change action alone’
- Utilise a holistic approach, recognising the multiple drivers of practice and action

³ Blue shaded boxes on outside of Figure 1

