HUMAN MOBILITY, NATURAL DISASTERS AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE PACIFIC

OUTCOME REPORT

Report from the Nansen Initiative
Pacific Regional Consultation
21-24 May 2013
Rarotonga, Cook Islands

DISASTERS CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISPLACEMENT
EVIDENCE FOR ACTION

NRC NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL
iDMC internal displacement monitoring centre
UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency
FOREWORD BY THE NANNSEN INITIATIVE SECRETARIAT

This report summarizes the outcomes (Part I) and technical discussions (Part II) of the first Nansen Initiative Regional Consultation that took place from 21–24 May 2013 on Rarotonga, Cook Islands: “Human Mobility, Natural Disasters and Climate Change in the Pacific”.

The overall objective of the Pacific Consultation was to identify specific challenges facing the Pacific region related to human mobility and natural disasters, and to develop concrete, practical, policy and programmatic outcomes in response to these challenges. The technical workshop (21–23 May) and a session with a governmental panel (24 May) brought together more than 70 representatives from 10 Pacific countries (including the Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Australia), countries beyond the Pacific region, international organizations, international experts, NGOs, civil society and faith-based organizations.

Participants presented the conclusions from the technical workshop in the form of an outcome document to a governmental panel on the last day of the Consultation. The outcome document contains conclusions and recommendations that require actions at community, national, regional and international levels (Chapter II.2). A summary of the panel discussion can be found in Chapter II.3. Members of the governmental panel welcomed the conclusions and expressed their commitment to bring them to a higher political level in order to enhance regional and international efforts to address the needs and challenges associated with human mobility in the context of natural disasters, as well as the effects of climate change.

The Government of the Cook Islands hosted the Consultation with operational, practical and logistical support from the Nansen Initiative Secretariat in Geneva and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The Consultation was supported financially by the European Commission.

The Nansen Initiative on disaster-induced cross-border displacement is a state-led, bottom-up consultative process intended to build consensus on the development of a protection agenda addressing the needs of people displaced across international borders by natural disasters, including those linked to the effects of climate change.

To begin the Nansen Initiative process, five regional consultations will be held in the Pacific, Central America, East Africa, Southeast Asia and South Asia over the course of 2013–2014. These consultations will bring together representatives from states, international organizations, NGOs, civil society, think tanks and others key actors working on issues related to displacement and natural disasters, including those in the context of climate change. The outcomes from these consultations will be compiled in preparation for a global consultative meeting planned for early 2015, when representatives of interested states and experts from around the world will discuss a potential ‘protection agenda’ for cross-border displacement in the context of natural disasters. The Initiative does not aim at creating new legal standards but its outcomes may be taken up at domestic, regional and universal levels and lead to new laws, soft law instruments or binding agreements.
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I. OUTCOMES OF THE NANSEN INITIATIVE PACIFIC REGIONAL CONSULTATION

1.1 MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE COOK ISLANDS

The Honorable Henry Puna
Prime Minister of the Cook Islands

It was with pleasure that the Cook Islands played host to the first of five regional consultations of the Nansen Initiative “Human Mobility, Natural Disasters, and Climate Change in the Pacific” on Rarotonga, Cook Islands. The workshop (21-23 May 2013) and the governmental dialogue on the last day of the consultation (24 May 2013) brought together more than 70 participants from ten Pacific Island countries, other countries, as well as representatives from regional and international organizations, civil society, and academia.

This has been an important undertaking for us and an opportunity to participate in the launch of a new global effort to contend with an emerging issue – for the Pacific at least. The threats of displacement and forced mobility of the Pacific people is a reality because of the impact of disasters associated with, and linked to, extreme weather events and the adverse impacts of climate change.

As a Northern Group resident, from Manihiki, Cook Islands, I have a deep appreciation of how serious the implications of forced human mobility can be. In 1997, virtually the entire island population of Manihiki was evacuated in the aftermath of Cyclone Martin, which claimed 19 lives. Traumatized and devastated by this disaster, our people – including the children – required counseling as well as relief assistance. This internal displacement had a profound effect and impact upon the island, and the population numbers have not yet recovered. Today, Manihiki, like all of our atoll communities, remains highly vulnerable to the increased frequency and intensity of cyclones, sea surges, and coral degradation as a result of climate change. In more recent years, tsunamis have also displaced large numbers of Pacific peoples, claimed many lives and destroyed villages in places like Samoa and the Solomon Islands.

The prospect of cross border displacement is a last resort, recognizing that in some circumstances human mobility across borders can be voluntary and a perfectly acceptable option. However, the risk of displacement and forced mobility remains a Pacific reality. Thus, to think about, to talk about and more importantly to act upon this reality according to the wishes and the rights of our people is important. I am reminded of the saying that: “To fail to plan is to plan to fail.” As difficult as the discussion may be, during this Consultation we have taken the first step to plan to address the issue of cross-border displacement caused by natural disasters and climate change.

The Consultation has been an opportunity to elicit concerns from a broad range of stakeholders, find com-
monality in approaches, and see how to enhance and strengthen the collective Pacific voice. The prospect of being displaced by the force of a disaster or the adverse impact of climate change is not something one normally would like to talk about. We like to keep difficult issues out of sight and out of mind by not talking about them. I am very pleased that participants at the Consultation had the courage to put the difficult issue on the table and dissect it, top to bottom and back to front.

In the Pacific we have a shared experience and a collective responsibility to act to protect the rights of the Pacific people, their security, peace and sustainability. As the global discussion turns to the question of cross-border displacement as a result of adverse climate impacts upon our countries, the obligation to cater for adequate protection and security of those forced to abandon their land is going to require considerable discussion by us all.

As a political leader I have broad responsibilities. As Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, on occasion I have the task to speak on behalf of the entire region. This can be a delicate exercise. On the surface, the Nansen Initiative may not seem controversial, but that might be a simplistic view at this early stage. The Consultation is likely to spark considerable discussion among leaders in the region.

“Thus, to think about, to talk about and more importantly to act upon this reality according to the wishes and the rights of our people is important. I am reminded of the saying that: ‘To fail to plan is to plan to fail.’”

Hon. Henry Puna, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands

But I will play my part in bringing the results and outcomes from Consultation forward in the context of a series of regional gatherings in the coming months, such as the meetings of the Polynesian Leaders Group, the Small Island Developing States, the gathering for the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Grouping and the Pacific Islands Forum Leader’s meeting. These are all opportunities to broaden and strengthen the linkages established in the Consultation on Rarotonga.

Over the course of this year, Pacific leaders will learn more about what has taken place in Rarotonga during the Consultation. In particular, I am very pleased that the Government of Marshall Islands has made climate change a theme at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders’ meeting. That will be a perfect fit and a perfect extension for what has been addressed during the consultation here in Rarotonga. I will endeavor to promote the Nansen Initiative’s protection agenda as it has been captured in the outcome document, and for this I will require the support of all participants present in the Consultation.

1.2 CONCLUSIONS: NANSEN INITIATIVE PACIFIC REGIONAL CONSULTATION

The following outcome document from the Nansen Initiative Pacific Regional Consultation, prepared and drafted by a drafting committee and based on outcomes from the technical workshop, was considered and subsequently endorsed by a governmental panel on the last day of the Consultation (please also see the next chapter):

CONCLUSIONS:
NANSEN INITIATIVE PACIFIC REGIONAL CONSULTATION

Participants from 10 Pacific countries, other countries, as well as representatives from regional and international organizations, civil society, and academia, met in Rarotonga from 21 to 24 May 2013 for a consultation on “Human Mobility, Natural Disasters and Climate Change in the Pacific.” They welcomed the Nansen Initiative. This Initiative is a state-led, bottom-up consultative process intended to build consensus on a protection agenda addressing the needs of people displaced across international borders in the context of natural disasters, as well as the effects of climate change.

Participants reaffirmed the 2008 Niue Declaration on Climate Change, in which Pacific Leaders emphasise “the importance of retaining the Pacific’s social and cultural identity, and the desire of the Pacific peoples to continue to live in their own countries, where possible.” Participants stressed that having to leave one’s own country is the least preferred option. Participants expressed concern that cross-border relocation may negatively impact on nationhood, control over land and sea territory, sovereignty, culture and livelihoods.

Participants stressed the importance of climate change mitigation and adaption measures to prevent displacement and avoid the need for relocation. Planning within the region for population movement must be seen as complementary to these efforts.

Participants expressed concern that effects of climate change and recurrent natural disasters in the Pacific region increasingly trigger population movements. Cyclones, flooding, landslides, tsunamis, earthquakes or volcanic eruptions cause the displacement of communities. Already, coastal erosion and the salinisation of fresh water sources and agricultural land associated with sea level rise prompt people to move to safer places or even make the planned relocation of whole villages necessary. In this context, the identification of suitable land to relocate communities at risk of exposure to natural disasters, or whose land has been rendered uninhabitable, is a particular challenge.
Participants noted the long history of mobility in the Pacific region and the support provided to people through existing clan and kinship networks. Participants also acknowledged the history of solidarity between Pacific Island countries in assisting each other in the wake of natural disasters, as well as the humanitarian and development assistance provided from within the region and beyond. Participants were impressed by the fact that many communities show a high level of resilience in the face of environmental degradation linked to climate change and natural disasters. They also welcomed the important role played by faith-based organizations and traditional support systems.

Participants also noted that voluntary migration abroad, while still mainly economic in character, in some Pacific countries is increasingly associated with environmental degradation linked to climate change and natural disasters. As a consequence of sea level rise, acidification and more extreme weather patterns, voluntary migration, planned relocation and forced displacement are expected to rise significantly in the next decades and beyond. While such population movements primarily take place within the borders of Pacific countries, some are already cross-border in nature. In this regard, participants recognized that some Pacific people affected by natural disasters and environmental degradation may freely migrate to states with which their country of origin has special ties. This avenue is not readily available for citizens of all Pacific Island countries whose territory will be particularly affected by the consequences of climate change and whose populations are at a heightened risk of having to move abroad.

While recognizing the need to strengthen mitigation and adaptation efforts, which, if effective, would allow people to stay in their homes, participants agreed that in the context of natural disasters and climate change these developments require action and resource mobilization to be taken at community, national, regional and international levels. Such actions include:

1. AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL TO:
   - Strengthen the resilience of communities through risk assessments, disaster preparedness measures, disaster risk reduction measures, and development interventions.
   - Prepare, through consultation, education, and awareness raising, at-risk communities as well as potential host communities for the prospect of population movements, and what this entails.
   - Ensure that in the context of planned relocation and displacement:
     - affected communities are informed, consulted and able to participate actively in relevant decisions and their implementation;
     - basic services, adequate housing, and access to livelihoods without discrimination are available for relocated people in the receiving community;
     - adequate mechanisms and/or safeguards are in place to prevent and solve conflicts over land and resources due to factors such as cultural diversity or population growth.

2. AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL TO:
   - Integrate voluntary migration, forced displacement, and planned relocation within national laws and policies, such as National Adaptation Plans, Joint National Action Plans, and National Disaster Management Plans.
   - Continue to strengthen and deepen education, training and upskilling of Pacific Islanders, including through qualification and accreditation alignment, so that they can migrate with dignity if they choose to do so.
   - Strengthen national capacities to identify and address the assistance and protection needs of particularly vulnerable persons among those affected by natural disasters and climate change.
   - Take measures such as land audits, demarcation of uncontested boundaries and community land mapping to facilitate the identification of land when people need to be temporarily or permanently moved, within their own country or abroad.
   - Encourage review of existing citizenship laws to ensure that they allow for dual nationality as a measure to help safeguard the cultural identity of those who move abroad. This helps to sustain ties to countries of origin and allows for the possibility of circular migration where appropriate.
   - Encourage review, as part of regional processes, of existing admission and immigration policies:
     - to allow people affected by natural disasters and climate change to voluntarily migrate to another country in order to avoid displacement at a later stage, and to promote community resilience, e.g., through remittances and skills development;
     - to introduce mechanisms for temporary or permanent protection for people displaced from another country in the aftermath of a natural disaster.
   - Ensure the full respect of the human rights of people admitted in the context of voluntary migration, forced displacement and planned relocation.
   - Ratify and implement relevant international human rights instruments.
3. AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL TO:

• Continue the regional dialogue on voluntary migration, forced displacement and planned relocation.

• Integrate consideration of voluntary migration, forced displacement, and planned relocation within ongoing regional processes, such as the Pacific Plan Review and the revision of other relevant regional frameworks.

• Develop appropriate normative frameworks to address the protection needs of displaced or relocated populations, including temporary protection schemes or template agreements, which take into account lessons from past experience and incorporate existing good practices from the Pacific Island countries.

• Encourage regional agencies and national governments to continue to identify gaps in knowledge and collect relevant data.

4. AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL TO:

• Ensure that the Pacific region maintains a strong voice in international fora, while also respecting and reflecting the diversity in the region.

• Ensure that donor priorities are better aligned with regional and national priorities.

• Encourage discussions regarding resources being made available within the framework of existing or new international financial mechanisms to cover costs and investments related to displacement and planned relocation, and to compensate for loss of community ties, land, and cultural assets.

• Encourage states and relevant international organizations to develop appropriate normative frameworks to address the protection needs of displaced or relocated populations.

1 The Honorable Talaititama Talaiti, Associate Minister for External Affairs, Niue, who participated in the technical workshop, had to leave before the governmental panel.

1.3 CONSIDERATIONS OF THE CONCLUSIONS BY A GOVERNMENTAL PANEL

The Prime Minister of the Cook Islands chaired a governmental panel on 24 May 2013. He was joined by the Honorable Sprent Dabwido, President of Nauru; the Honorable Teima Onorio, Vice-President of Kiribati; the Honorable Tuisa Tasi Patea, Associate Ministry of Police, Samoa; the Honorable Apisai Lelemia, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Tourism, Environment and Labour, Tuvalu; and the Honorable Tom Marsters, Deputy Prime Minister, Cook Islands.

The Prime Minister also invited representatives of the Chairmanship, the organizers (the Nansen Initiative and SPREP) and the technical workshop participants (represented by the Speaker of the Cook Islands Parliament) to take the floor.

The objective of the session was to discuss the conclusions from the technical workshop and to seek feedback on their relevance. The Prime Minister then sought critical reflections on the conclusions and guidance from the elected leaders on possible next steps and how to bring the conclusions to a higher political level. The panel discussion also provided an opportunity for elected leaders to share experiences on disaster-induced displacement in their respective countries.

The Honorable Teima Onorio, Kiribati commended the outcome document and stated her support for the conclusions. She reminded the participants that Kiribati is at the forefront of what the Consultation had been discussing. The Vice President found the goals of the Nansen Initiative to be in many ways an extension of existing Kiribati policies and frameworks, such as the National Climate Change and Adaptation Framework. She acknowledged support from donor partners, in particular Australia and New Zealand, and stressed the importance of working together to help improve the lives of the Pacific people. The Vice President expressed commitment to follow up on the recommendations from the Consultation.

“...if the catastrophe is inevitable, we need to prepare ourselves and our people for eventual migration.”

Hon. Teima Onorio, Vice President of Kiribati

The Honorable Sprent Dabwido, Nauru was encouraged that through the Nansen Initiative, Norway and Switzerland had put the issue of climate change-related displacement on the agenda. He was pleased to be part of one of the first discussions on these issues in the Pacific. The President said that displacement is likely to increase in the future, particularly because of climate change, and he noted the Consultation as a first step in the right direction to address these challenges. Nauru, as
chair of AOSIS, and AOSIS’s 43 member countries have had climate change at the top of their agenda for many years, and he encouraged the aspect of displacement to be included as well. The President stated that he fully supported and endorsed the outcome document; he considered it a good document to bring to other Pacific Leaders. He concluded by stressing that follow up to the Consultation is very important in order to ensure action.

The Honorable Tuisa Tasi Patea, Samoa observed that the outcome statement was comprehensive. He reminded participants that Samoa is not a stranger to disasters and has faced severe flooding, cyclones and tsunamis. Regarding migration as adaptation, he considered it less imminent for Samoa than for countries like Tuvalu and Kiribati. He observed that a decision to adapt to climate change though migration should not be taken lightly, and should be made at an individual level. The Minister stressed that if a final decision to move is taken, it should take place in dignity and be based on dialogue and consultation between sending and receiving countries both at the national level as well as at the grass-roots level, to ensure proper protection and the sustainability of cultural and religious identity. The Minister ended his intervention by pledging support to work with regional organizations in bringing the conclusions to regional meetings such as the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders’ meeting, as well as to the United Nations.

The Honorable Apisai Lelema, Tuvalu expressed appreciation for the Nansen Initiative. He reminded participants that Tuvalu, together with Kiribati and the Marshall Islands, is at the forefront of the adverse impacts of climate change. In planning for the future, he emphasized the importance of recognizing that the size of countries matters, since other, larger islands may have landmasses to which people can escape. The Minister stressed that Tuvalu is committed to the Niue Declaration and reaffirmed that resettlement and relocation are last resorts, but observed that there is also a limit to adaption and preparedness because of the size of some the islands; a tsunami could, for example, have devastating consequences. He stated that the Nansen Initiative may be important for small island developing states like Tuvalu so that they can have a framework or mechanism through which to negotiate and find solutions to their needs and challenges with core partners such as Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Cook Islands and Fiji etc.

The Honorable Tom Marsters, Cook Islands recognized that climate change has an impact on displacement in the Pacific region. He also noted that the Cook Islands has had its fair share of disasters. In particular, the Minister referred to the consequences of Cyclone Martin that devastated the Northern Island of Manihiki in 1997, killing 20 people and flattening homes, with some of the victims never found. He expressed gratitude to New Zealand for coming to the rescue in that situation and others. The Minister also highlighted the important role played by the National Red Cross Movement and the International Federation of the Red Cross in disaster relief efforts. He concluded by saying that the Government of the Cook Islands subscribes strongly to the outcome document.

On a general note, members of the Panel welcomed a Pacific region discussion at appropriate political levels on human mobility as a result of disasters and climate change. They recognized that the outcome document reflected the essence of the discussions and conversations that had taken place at the Consultation.

Further remarks of the panel are summarized as follows:

- Members of the panel reaffirmed the relevance of the 2008 Niue Declaration on Climate Change. People want to stay on the Pacific Islands as long as possible. Given this, they reiterated that the 1.4 Displacement and conflict priority should remain mitigation and adaptation measures, including contingency planning, preparedness and disaster risk reduction actions, to build resilience. Policies and actions should firstly seek to prevent displacement and avoid relocation.

- At the same time, some Pacific Island countries are already facing coastal erosion, droughts and other environmental degradation, as well as an increase in frequency and strength of wind storms, flooding and high tides. Pacific Island states are also exposed to geophysical hazards such as tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. Such events regularly cause internal displacement or require the planned relocation of villages and communities within affected countries.

- The possibility of future displacement and relocation within affected Pacific countries or across international borders is a reality. Some islands are small and particularly vulnerable to sudden-onset disasters, with limited landmasses to retreat to in the event of a major slow- or sudden-onset disaster. States facing limited fresh water supplies, salinization, or at risk of losing substantial parts of their territory as a consequence of coastal erosion have to prepare their populations, particularly those in countries without special ties that allow their citizens to easily migrate to other countries.
• It is important to plan for and act upon these realities and address different potential forms of population movements that may continue to emerge.

• Members of the panel agreed that responses to the challenges posed by voluntary migration, planned relocation and forced displacement within and between countries should protect the rights of people and their communities, safeguard their cultural identity and allow for lives with safety and dignity somewhere else.

• They also recognized that many of the challenges facing the Pacific require innovative, regional and international normative frameworks and operational mechanisms for prevention, protection and solutions including solidarity and support from the international community. The panel members recognized and welcomed assistance from neighboring countries and international organizations in times of disasters.

• The members of the panel expressed their commitment to bring the outcomes of the Consultation to a higher political level in order to enhance regional and international efforts to address the challenges of human mobility in the context of natural disasters, including the effects of climate change.
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Chairmanship of the Nansen Initiative

Norway and Switzerland

Every year, millions of people are forcibly displaced by floods, wind-storms, earthquakes, droughts and other natural disasters. In the context of global warming, such movements are likely to increase. In 2012 the Norwegian and Swiss governments launched the Nansen Initiative to address the need for a more coherent approach to the protection of people displaced across borders in the context of natural disasters. The Nansen Initiative’s overall goal is to build consensus on key principles and elements regarding the protection of persons displaced across borders in the context of natural disasters, recognizing that national and international responses to this challenge are presently insufficient and that protection for affected people is inadequate.

To obtain a better understanding of such movements, information and analysis will be collected in the framework of five regional consultations to be held in the most affected regions of the world over the course of 2013 – 2014. This first consultation in the Pacific region is a challenging, though compelling place to begin the process. In addition to the many active volcanoes in the region, the islands are exposed to cyclones, drought, king tides, tsunamis, and flooding. Pacific Island countries have also arguably begun to feel the effects of climate change through sea level rise, increased intensity of extreme rainfall events, ocean acidification, and warming temperatures. As in other regions of the world, most displacement in the Pacific is internal following sudden-onset disasters, with people generally able to return to their homes shortly after the disaster. However, migration abroad, while still mainly economic in character, is increasingly linked to natural disasters and environmental degradation. This first Nansen Initiative Regional Consultation recognizes the need in the Pacific to proactively address potential population movements before environmental conditions reach a crisis point that forces people to abandon their homes.

Switzerland and Norway are grateful for the support of the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands for hosting the first Consultation in the Pacific, and joining global efforts to move forward toward the development of a protection agenda for cross-border disaster-induced displacement.

Envoy of the Chairmanship of the Nansen Initiative

Professor Walter Kaelin
Envoy of the Chairmanship of the Nansen Initiative

When I first met the Honorable Prime Minister Henry Puna of the Cook Islands in late March 2013, he immediately extended an invitation to explore the possibility of organizing a consultation with Pacific political leaders on displacement and other forms of human mobility in the context of natural disasters and climate change in his country. Only two months later, the consultation was opened in Rarotonga. This, as well as the very significant outcomes of the deliberations, represents a remarkable achievement that would not have been possible without the support of the Government of the Cook Islands, other governments, SPREP, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, and the active contributions of all of the participants.

This has not only been the first consultation on the forced movement of people in the context of natural disasters within the Nansen Initiative process, but also within the Pacific region generally. After visiting a number of Pacific Islands, I have seen how difficult the situation is on some of the islands. Aware of these challenges, I am impressed by the discussions and sharing of real life experiences during the three days of meetings. This has been a consultation in the true meaning of the word: participants have identified good practices and formulated recommendations to address jointly identified challenges and gaps. Although the Pacific region has seen relatively little cross-border displacement, we have learned about human mobility in the region, not only to Australia and New Zealand, but also among smaller island states. The discussions have
also brought up testimonies of difficult experiences of displacement and relocations, planned and forced.

The Consultation’s outcomes prove the relevance of the 2008 Niue Declaration on Climate Change and the importance of pursuing mitigation and adaptation measures that would allow people to stay and to prevent displacement within countries and across borders. At the same time, the Consultation has also shown the importance of looking ahead if we want to protect people displaced by natural disasters and avoid humanitarian crises in the future. Discussing what can be done to manage population movements in ways that respect and protect the rights of people, families and communities who have to leave their homes and safeguard their dignity and cultural identity is essential. Climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction, voluntary migration abroad, planned relocation of communities in safety and dignity, and assistance and protection for people where – as in the context of sudden-onset natural disasters – forced displacement cannot be avoided, are all part of the tool box that we need to develop in order to address the many challenges the Pacific region is facing. While climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as disaster risk reduction are discussed in other fora, the Consultation, while taking these topics into account, focused on the different forms of population movements.

As the Nansen Initiative moves on to consult other regions of the world, we will share the Pacific region’s numerous relevant experiences and lessons learned. We also stand ready to bring the Pacific region’s recommendations to the global level within the Nansen Initiative Global Dialogue, planned for early 2015. We hope that representatives from this Consultation will join us as our partners in the Pacific region.

2.1.3 Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

David Sheppard
Director General SPREP

SPREP was first introduced to the Nansen Initiative by the Swiss Ambassador to Samoa, with further information communicated by the Envoy of the Chairmanship of the Nansen Initiative. We appreciated right away the important linkages of the Initiative to our on-going work on climate change. We are also pleased to have been requested by the Cook Islands Government to assist with the organization of the Consultation. Countries in the region are interested in exploring the risks and challenges of human mobility in the context of climate change, and our priority is to make sure we are available to our members to provide technical advice on their priorities and to ensure that events such as the Consultation can occur.

There is in general a strong sense among Pacific Islanders of belonging to one’s island and a wish to remain. Any movement must therefore be voluntary, and the affected people and communities, including churches and civil society, should be in the driving seat at all stages of the planning and response. This is a sensitive issue and it is entirely up to each country to decide what response they wish to take to a changing climate.

Although the Pacific Island countries only represent 0.03 % of global greenhouse gas emissions, the region is at the frontline of the impacts of climate change and rising sea levels. The policy responses to these challenges must be country driven and include a mix of strategies. The Nansen Initiative Consultation has shown the complexity, as well as the passion, surrounding the issue of human mobility in the context of climate change. The Consultation provided an opportunity to learn from a wide breadth of practical experience drawn from the wide range of disciplines present, as well as to hear from legal and technical experts on various aspects relating to human mobility and relocation. The conclusions from these rich discussions are well summarized in the outcome document. We believe that the dialogue on climate change and human mobility should continue, including in regional political fora and in SPREP’s own governing body’s annual meeting. SPREP stands ready to support its members in the Pacific Islands region, and to continue to provide technical advice on these complex and difficult issues.
2.2 PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

2.2.1 Introduction and Structure of the Workshop

Pacific Island countries, like many small island developing states, face a complex set of issues related to human mobility (forced displacement, voluntary migration, and planned relocation) and natural disasters. The Pacific Islands are regularly affected by severe wind storms, cyclones, flooding, earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions. Even more important, however, is the threat that climate change impacts such as rising sea levels and increasing sea temperatures pose to Pacific Island countries.  

The technical workshop was organized in four parts. The first part included case studies and thematic presentations organized within four topical panels: 1) Disaster-induced Human Mobility in the Pacific Region; 2) Migration as Adaptation; 3) Planned Relocation; and 4) Protection during Displacement and Durable Solutions. During the second part the next day, the outcomes from the presentations and plenary discussion were brought within four working groups organized according to different categories of human mobility (migration as adaptation, planned relocation, protection during displacement, and durable solutions to displacement). Each group was tasked with identifying needs and challenges, highlighting existing good practices, and formulating new policy recommendations to respond to the identified gaps. The outcome of each group’s deliberation was shared for plenary discussion and presented according to recommended action at the local, national, regional or international level.

The third part of the technical workshop was dedicated to strategizing about how to incorporate human mobility related to natural disasters within existing national, regional, and international plans, policies, and processes. The final session introduced the concept of “loss and damage” as understood within the UNFCCC process, which allowed participants to discuss the relevance of loss and damage to addressing displacement and migration as a form of adaptation to climate change.

Key messages and cross-cutting issues from the technical workshop were as follows:

- Continued mitigation and adaptation efforts in response to climate change are a first priority. Leaving one’s country is the least preferred option.

- Planning and responses to potential migration, planned relocation and displacement should be proactive rather than driven by events and emergencies after the fact.

- The challenges of human mobility within the context of natural disasters and climate change require changing normal ways of working to find innovative solutions that respond to the Pacific region’s specific needs, drawing on local resources and capacities.

- The right to live in dignity should be upheld during migration, displacement or relocation.

- Ensuring that Pacific Islanders can safeguard their cultural identities and maintain cultural ties should be an essential element of any strategy or policy addressing human mobility within the context of natural disasters and climate change.

- Relocation poses both short-term and long-term challenges and protection problems. Experiences in the Pacific highlight the potentially deep psychological consequences of displacement and planned relocation that may even span generations.

- Existing standards are insufficient to ensure that relocation is meticulously planned and the rights of affected populations respected, including the need for extensive consultation with both relocated and receiving communities.

- Human mobility strategies should address the specific protection needs of particular groups, such as older persons, people with disabilities, women, and children.

- Integrated disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation planning and frameworks provide opportunities for addressing and integrating associated human mobility concerns, particularly in terms of the prevention of displacement and planned relocation.

- Data collection and analysis systems relevant for human mobility in the context of disasters need to be reviewed and appropriately updated to inform policy responses at all levels.

Country-specific case studies as well as thematic presentations had been prepared by governments, experts and representatives from national, international and civil society organizations. All presentations can be found at: www.nanseninitiative.org.

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2 Please refer to the Background Paper prepared and circulated to participants prior to the Consultation (www.nanseinitiative.org).
2.2.2 Disaster-Induced Human Mobility and Protection Challenges in the Pacific

The first session of the technical workshop provided an overview of human mobility in the Pacific region in the context of climate change and natural disasters, including internal and cross-border planned relocation, voluntary migration and displacement.

Key messages from the presentations and discussion:

- Overall displacement estimates in the region as presented by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) suggest that average annual internal displacement between 2008 and 2012 in the context of sudden-onset disasters numbered almost 60,000, affecting several countries.

- The risk of displacement from natural disaster is high, considering the high percentage of people living in storm surge zones (e.g. 22% of Tuvalu’s population).

- Lessons learned from internal displacement are relevant to some elements of emergency response in situations of cross-border disaster-induced displacement. However, in the event of a disaster, international law does not provide clear obligations regarding admission to another country, or clearly defined standards of treatment during displacement.

- Migration and planned relocation are disaster-affected populations’ least preferred options.

- Very few relocation examples in the Pacific have occurred without significant negative consequences; thus participants stressed the importance of identifying lessons learned to inform future responses and policies.

- The potential role and contributions of civil society organizations engaged at the policy and community level on disaster-induced human mobility should be recognized and built upon.

Presentations

Overview of Current and Anticipated Population Movements in the Pacific
Justin Ginnetti and Christopher Lavell
Senior Advisor and Research Consultant, respectively, at the Norwegian Refugee Council, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

Ginnetti and Lavell stated that disaster-induced displacement data compiled by NRC/IDMC indicates that the number of people displaced each year in the Pacific is significant. They presented a system dynamics model to project disaster induced displacement that NRC/IDMC is adapting for Small Island Developing States, to which Pacific Island governments were encouraged to contribute additional information.

Human Mobility and Key Protection Challenges- Tuvalu’s Perspective
Tapugao Falefou
Permanent Secretary for the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Tourism, Environment, and Labour, Tuvalu

Falefou explained that while Tuvalu has a long history of human mobility, the realities of sea-level rise are at least partially influencing cross-border migration, especially to New Zealand. He noted, however, that while public opinion may change in the years to come, most people prefer to remain in Tuvalu, citing the potential negative consequences associated with relocation and migration (e.g., loss of nationhood and sovereignty, cultural identity, traditional governance systems, etc.).

The Clock is Ticking
Netani Rika
Communications Officer at the Pacific Conference of Churches

Rika recounted that the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) is committed to engaging climate change challenges, particularly those related to human mobility. He emphasized that the PCC stands ready to assist governments and other relevant actors with the development of dignified solutions by working at both the policy and community level to help people make informed choices based upon knowledge and spiritual considerations.

Climate Change, Displacement and the Role of International Law and Policy
Jane McAdam
Scientia Professor of Law and Australian Research Council Future Fellow at the University of New South Wales Faculty of Law

McAdam explained that since international law protects only a small class of forced migrants (refugees, stateless persons, and those eligible for complementary protection), people displaced by natural disasters risk interdiction or expulsion if they attempt to cross an international border and have no legal entitlement to stay in that other country. She set out the scope and limits of existing protection options under international law, and discussed the need to develop a variety of legal and policy responses that are attuned to the specific needs of the Pacific. Migration and relocation options should be explored for pre-emptive movement, while a parallel humanitarian response should be explored for rapid-onset disasters or for people facing slow-onset change who are unable or unwilling to migrate. She emphasized the importance of identifying lessons learned from past experiences of relocation in the Pacific.
Fitzpatrick highlighted that short of buying an island, the reality is that all planned relocation will occur through agreements with host communities, because most land in the Pacific is held collectively according to customary laws. He said that this suggests the need to negotiate land agreements to avoid potential conflicts between host communities and relocated communities, which may increase over time, such as when populations outgrow land allocated to them. He argued that despite extensive standards for development-induced resettlement, few guidelines exist for relocation in the disaster context with the exception of potential policy tools to resolve land tenure issues, such as template agreements between relocated and receiving communities, and community land mapping.

2.2.3 Migration as Adaptation

This session explored the linkages between environmental degradation and voluntary migration as a way to adapt to environmental changes. It provided an opportunity to learn how existing government and international organizations’ policy responses may be utilized to facilitate migration as a response to climate change and environmental degradation.

Key messages from the presentations and discussion:

- Policies to facilitate migration as a form of adaptation to climate change should be regarded as complementary to other mitigation and adaptation measures.

- Regionally, migration has been a frequent response to environmental change or other pressures which have taken people beyond their adaptive capacities.

- Employment abroad provides livelihood opportunities that may reduce the risk of displacement, for example through remittances that support physical adaptation measures or allow other family members to stay on the islands.

- Although they were not established for that purpose, regional seasonal worker programs and programs aimed at upskilling and training for the global labor market provide overseas employment opportunities for some Pacific Islanders facing challenges associated with environmental degradation.

- The nature of the relationship between the countries of origin and destination impact whether certain Pacific Islanders can freely migrate to access employment and educational opportunities, or obtain permanent residence abroad.

- Migration patterns take many forms (e.g. circular, permanent or temporary) that allow for different possible policy options in response to environmental degradation.

- Revising citizenship laws to allow for dual citizenship could contribute to maintaining cultural ties to countries of origin, for example by allowing circular migration if appropriate.

Key conclusions from the working group:

- At the community level, efforts should be made to improve communication between those who migrate and those who stay behind to discuss the challenges and benefits associated with migration.

- At the national level, institutional frameworks, such as national adaptation plans and disaster risk reduction strategies, should be reviewed and revised to include migration, as appropriate.

- National citizenship laws should be reviewed to ensure the retention of nationality upon migration or upon receiving a second nationality.

- Existing programs focused on aligning accreditation and developing training and skills in preparation for accessing the global market should be continued and expanded.

- At a national level, consideration should be given to aligning vulnerability to natural disasters with entry into seasonal worker or training programs.

- The use of remittances should be explored as a potential source to diversify skills for those remaining in the country of origin.

- At the regional level, aligning migration and admissions policies amongst the Pacific Islands states should be discussed within the 2013 Pacific Plan review process.

- The Pacific Qualification Framework and Regional Education Framework should seek greater cohesion in terms of training and educational standards and policies.

- At the international level, circular migration should be promoted in international fora as a potential form of adaptation to climate change, while emphasizing the voluntary nature of migration and the need to address cultural losses potentially associated with migration.
Presentations

The Workers’ Perspective
Anthony Turoa
Representative of Workers in the Cook Islands Trade Union

Turoa emphasized the importance of investing in helping people develop skills that will allow them to access and integrate within the global labor market in the context of the challenges associated with climate change. He also provided an overview of employment opportunities in the Pacific region, such as seasonal worker programs, that respond to some of the challenges, even if they were not originally created for that purpose.

Greening Admissions Policies to Promote Adaptive Migration
Bruce Burson
Independent consultant on refugee and migration law and policy

Burson argued that, from a migration policy perspective, the ease with which persons affected by natural disasters may undertake voluntary adaptive migration is a function of the relationship between their country of origin and the country of destination. He distinguished between constitutional relationships, which confer citizenship of the destination country on all nationals of the former, and international relationships, which may confer on some privileged rights of entry and labor market access. For this latter group, he argued for the need to leverage existing policy interventions at both the source and destination ends to see how they can be adapted to respond to the needs of those in the Pacific who are particularly vulnerable to natural hazards, for example, by facilitating inter-island movement as well as to New Zealand and Australia.

Migration in Dignity
Tebao Awerika
Secretary for the Office of the President, Kiribati

Awerika presented the Government of Kiribati’s “migration in dignity” policy, which includes the need to identify potential recipient countries, and prepare citizens and youth to live abroad by providing them with appropriate skills, pastoral care and an understanding of cultural norms in the receiving country. He viewed the Nansen Initiative as a natural continuation of existing policies and frameworks, such as Kiribati’s National Climate Change and Adaptation Framework.

Migration as Adaptation
Lesi Korovavala
Head of Office and Programme Manager at the International Organization for Migration’s Vanuatu Country Office

Korovavala spoke about the cycle of environmental migration as a way to achieve sustainable development, such as through measures that can improve migrants’ access to markets, send back remittances, or develop skills that help workers access all levels of employment, not just low-skilled. He explained that migration can be both internal and external migration as well as circular, noting that policies should recognize that most people will actually stay behind while others may want to return home, even after many years, without fear of rejection.

Ciguatera Poisoning and Migration in the Cook Islands
Talaiti Talaitema and Justin Kamupala
Associate Minister for External Affairs and the Secretary of Justice, Niue

Talaiti observed that while many Pacific Islanders continue to voluntarily migrate in search of education, work, health, and other reasons, in the context of climate change, it may not be a personal choice to stay, but rather a question of when to leave or where to go. He emphasized the importance of migration within the region to help maintain cultural traditions given the similarities of many Pacific Island states, and concluded that the outcomes of the discussion during Nansen Initiative consultation may help formulate policies for the future. Kamupala spoke about Niue’s experience receiving relocated people from Tuvalu, highlighting the importance of communication and education for success.

Niue as a Receiving Country

Human Mobility, Natural Disasters and Climate Change in the Pacific
2.2.4 Planned Relocation

Drawing on the Pacific region’s historical relocation experiences, presenters reaffirmed that relocation has generally been unsuccessful and consequently should only be used as a last resort. Participants also agreed that the global community should continue to try to mitigate carbon dioxide emissions and pursue other adaptation measures.

Key messages from the presentations and discussion:
• Relocation should be understood as a long-term process that demands extensive consultation with both relocating and receiving communities.

• Key factors attributed to good practices in relocation included inclusive, bottom-up community participation, undertaking impact assessments in potential relocation sites, and proper planning in advance of implementation.

• Comparisons between different relocation experiences found that the ability of affected communities to choose to relocate greatly impacted the success of the relocation effort.

• Although relocation has its pros and cons, in the context of some slow-onset or sudden-onset disasters, planned relocation may be the only available option.

• Existing guidelines are insufficient for effectively planning and implementing planned relocation in the context of disasters.

• Financial costs associated with compensation and the need to provide additional capacity for host communities to support relocated families should also be addressed.

Key conclusions from the working group:
• Consultation and awareness raising activities at the community level during all stages of the relocation process contribute to sustainable development. They should include undertaking risk assessments prior to disasters, reflect past relocation experiences, draw upon spiritual and traditional leadership structures, and include sustained consultation between host and receiving communities.

• National authorities should consider developing relocation guidelines that are consistent with relevant international resettlement standards (e.g. SPHERE, World Bank), incorporate alternative or innovative adaptation measures, and take into account customary land tenure systems.

• Template agreements with host communities may help ensure that adequate mechanisms and safeguards are in place to prevent conflict between relocated and host communities.

• Donors should continue to align their priorities with national and regional priorities in the Pacific, which prioritize adaptation measures over planned relocation.

• At the regional level, the dialogue on planned relocation, including a reflection upon lessons learned from past experience in the Pacific, should continue amongst island leaders, religious and traditional leaders, experts, and other interested parties.

• Planned relocation should be considered within the new Pacific regional framework that will replace the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC).

• Any planned relocation to another country should: i) define the legal status of the relocated community within the new state, ii) help communities adapt to local customs and laws, iii) include consultation with potential host communities, and iv) contain measures to facilitate the diaspora community maintaining cultural ties, such as allowing dual citizenship.

• International guidelines for facilitating elements of self-governance of relocated communities in host states could address issues related to self-determination, national sovereignty, and autonomy status.

• The international community could consider developing an international trust fund for relocation that would provide tools and financial resources dedicated to building and sustaining livelihoods and infrastructure for relocated communities.

Human Mobility, Natural Disasters and Climate Change in the Pacific: A Community Perspective
Penelise Alofa
National Coordinator at the Kiribati Climate Action Network (KiriCAN)

Alofa spoke about her experience as a descendant of a Banaban relocated to Fiji, and explained the challenges of integration even though the relocation took place in 1945. An elderly community member who was one of the original people relocated shared her experience about the struggles of the initial relocation. Alofa concluded her presentation by comparing the Banaban experience with potential relocation in the context of climate change, emphasizing that communities that may not ever be able to return to their lands will need to prepare to migrate in dignity as an alternative to relocation, and while those who are relocated will need longer-term, post-relocation assistance.
Learning from the Past: Relocation and Resettlement Standards in the Pacific

John Campbell
Associate Professor at the School of Social Sciences at the University of Waikato

Campbell highlighted the relocation of Kioa as an example of one of the most successful historical relocations in the Pacific under colonialism, citing disease, water security, food security, and overpopulation as factors prompting the relocations. Acknowledging the arguments for and against planned relocation in the context of disasters, he argued that due to its complexity and the customary land laws prominent in the Pacific region, planned relocation requires a proactive approach that recognizes that relocation is a long-term process that cannot be left until the last minute.

Fiji’s National Climate Change and Disaster Policies

Manasa Katonivualiku
CDM and 2nd National Communication Project Coordinator at the Climate Change Unit in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Fiji

Katonivualiku presented Fiji’s national framework addressing climate change and natural disasters, discussing its relevance to human mobility, noting that it does not specifically mention relocation or relocation guidelines. He stated that the Government plans to develop relocation guidelines as an addendum to the national climate change policy and to form a climate change relocation task force, both of which could address the need to ensure community consultation and environmental impact assessments as part of a relocation process.

A Case Study: Manihiki Cyclone, Cook Islands

Niki Rattle
Speaker of Parliament, Cook Islands

Rattle drew upon her personal experience following a devastating cyclone that struck the Manihiki atoll in 1997 to stress that humanitarian responses need to be flexible with potentially affected populations trained in emergency response, recognizing that the affected population is usually also the first responder. She emphasized the need to plan for return even as or before an evacuation takes place, recognizing that psychologically some people survive better if they are allowed to stay and cope within their own environment rather than being evacuated.

Vanuatu’s Migration as Adaptation Project: Tegua Island Torres Group

Peter Korisa and Espen Ronneberg
National Disaster Management Office, Vanuatu, and Climate Change Advisor at the Secretariat of the Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Korisa shared an example of a successful relocation in the context of a slow-onset disaster that was characterized by extensive community consultation and planning. He also emphasized the importance of fostering self-reliance and resilience at the community level. Ronneberg stated that relocation is only a small part of SPREP’s adaptation program, and that cooperation amongst regional agencies and development partners is critical to achieving positive outcomes. He also expressed concern that applying a cost benefit analysis to relocation may not take into account more intangible losses such as culture, language, and links to land.

2.2.5 Displacement

This session provided an opportunity to learn about the Pacific’s experience with displacement following sudden-onset disasters and to identify the most important protection concerns that arise in these contexts. Participants discussed how lessons learned from internal displacement could inform disaster-induced cross-border response and policies.

Key messages from the presentations and discussion:

- Risk assessment tools and models can contribute to reducing the risk of displacement.

- Preparedness, contingency plans, disaster risk reduction and disaster management plans are relevant protection tools.

- National and local governments’ disaster preparedness, response, and capacity-building plans should be developed with a protection lens to address protection needs associated with disaster-induced displacement.

Key conclusions from the working group:

- Local authorities, faith-based groups, NGOs, the Red Cross, and other disaster responders should continue to work closely with communities to assess why they might not evacuate when warned of impending sudden-onset disasters.

- Potential receiving countries could consider developing a national policy for the cross-border disaster-induced displaced in situations of both sudden- and slow-onset disasters.

- States should review and integrate good practices related to disaster-induced displacement within
national policies and plans, such as by establishing protection working groups, reviewing the safety of evacuation shelters, and designating responsible authorities for displacement.

- Pacific Island states should be encouraged to ratify existing relevant international human rights law instruments. The Pacific region should develop a normative framework that could be adapted to the protection needs of cross-border disaster-induced displaced within the region, and which builds upon traditional relationships and patterns of mobility between the Pacific Islands.

- The Pacific Plan review process should explore the development of a regional mechanism for temporary or permanent protection in another state in the context of disasters, particularly in the absence of pre-existing rights to immigration. It should also develop regional protection standards for disaster-induced internally displaced people that incorporate and take into account national protection standards.

- International donors should build upon existing assistance programs to provide higher funding levels to adequately address disaster-induced displacement within the Pacific.

**Displacement: Key Challenges**

**Walter Kaelin**  
_Envoy of the Chairmanship of the Nansen Initiative, and Professor of Law at the University of Bern_

Kaelin identified the specific protection needs of people displaced in the context of natural disasters. He explained that such needs may include: protection against displacement, freedom of movement to seek safety, non-discriminatory access to public services, recovery of personal documentation, protection of housing, land and property rights, as well as conditions for durable solutions.

**Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PACFARI)**

**Susan Vocea**  
_Senior Advisor on Risk Reduction at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community_

Vocea argued that one of the first steps in addressing the protection needs of displaced people due to natural disasters is identifying and understanding the potential risks and hazards. She stated that PACFARI has developed a number of risk assessment tools for 15 Pacific Island countries to help understand and model exposure to disasters.

**Tsunami Displacement in Samoa**

**Kalameli Seuseu-So’o**  
_Principal State Solicitor at the Office of the Attorney General, Samoa_

Seuseu-So’o presented Samoa’s response to a 2009 tsunami that killed, injured and displaced hundreds of people and caused devastation that overwhelmed national response capacity, despite contingency planning preparations. She explained that Samoa was able to recover because it had developed a national disaster management plan that facilitated work with donors and international organizations to develop a recovery plan, which has in turn informed subsequent disaster planning and response efforts.

**Volcanic Eruption on Gaua Island and Ambrym Island, Vanuatu**

**Peter Korisa**  
_National Disaster Management Office, Vanuatu_

Korisa presented the advantages and disadvantages of evacuating people on Gaua Island in 2010 to stay with host families on the opposite side of the island to escape unsafe areas around a volcanic eruption site. He said that in an effort to tackle the complex land issues associated with planned relocation, Government legislation allows the state to purchase customary land that can be transferred to another indigenous group in the context of overpopulation, or to acquire land for the public interest.

**Humanitarian Assistance and Protection**

**Catherine Gordon**  
_Liaison Officer for the Pacific at the UNHCR Regional Office in Canberra, Australia_

Gordon explained UNHCR’s long-standing expertise in protection and its relevance for the context of disaster-induced displacement, highlighting UNHCR’s co-leadership of the Pacific Humanitarian Protection Cluster with OHCHR. She argued for the importance of incorporating a protection lens within disaster response plans, and utilizing preparedness and capacity building activities to address protection needs associated with disaster-induced displacement.
2.2.6 Incorporation of Human Mobility within National, Regional and International Processes

Workshop participants in this session discussed how to incorporate human mobility related to natural disasters within relevant national, regional, and international plans and policies.

Key messages from the presentations and discussion:

- Need to address a dichotomy in planning and policy between Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and to connect better global frameworks such as the Hyogo Framework for Action and UNFCCC, with local policy frameworks.

- The Pacific region has been innovative by integrating DRR and CCA in some countries (e.g. Tonga) through Joint National Action Plans for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (JNAPs).

- A review of a number of national DRR and CCA policy and planning instruments shows weak, almost non-existent reference or inclusion of human mobility challenges in the context of natural disasters and climate change (e.g. displacement, relocation, evacuation, protection, etc.).

- There are currently opportunities to address this gap in future policy and planning instruments and this window of opportunity should be used.

Incorporation of Human Mobility into National Plans and Policies

John Hay
Adjunct Professor at the University of the South Pacific, Cook Islands Campus in Rarotonga

Hay explained that while National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs), National Risk Management Frameworks, and National Disaster Management Plans make some mention of displacement, migration, relocation, evacuation and resettlement, participants should seek opportunities to include human mobility, displacement and protection within these and other relevant policies. He recommended contributing outcomes from the Nansen Consultation to the 2013 Pacific Plan review process and the 2015 Integrated Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change in the Pacific.

Pacific Climate Change Roundtable and Pacific Disaster Platform

Espen Ronneberg
Climate Change Advisor at the Secretariat of the Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Ronneberg explained the background for the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change policies (“Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework” and the “Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change”) in the context of the so-called roadmap process. There is recognition and growing concern among Pacific countries that current and future adverse impacts of climate change will increase the level of risks associated with disasters. Although there are examples of integration at national level of such policies though JNAPs (e.g. Tonga, the Cook Islands and Tuvalu), the roadmap process which concludes in 2015 is first attempt of integration at the regional level.

Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies and International Disaster Law Program

Frances Topa-Fariu, Charlie Numanga and Fine-Tuitupou Arnold
Secretary General, Disaster Management Coordinator and Advocacy and Policy Advisor, respectively, at the Cook Islands Red Cross

Topa-Fariu commended the people and protection centered focus of the discussion at the Consultation. Numanga shared the Cook Islands’ experience with tropical cyclones, noting in particular the Red Cross’s collaboration with various government departments, national authorities and communities. He stressed the need to support and build resilience to deal with disasters or emergency events in the future at the community level. Arnold highlighted the potential role that legislation can play in disaster risk reduction (e.g. laws can set the stage for good warning systems, financing, community empowerment and accountability). She also spoke about the role that the International Federation of the Red Cross’s International Disaster Law Program and legislation could potentially play in this area as well as in others (e.g. facilitation of humanitarian assistance at the border).

The Pacific Humanitarian Team

Rashmi Rita
Humanitarian Affairs Officer at the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Fiji Office

Rita explained the Pacific Humanitarian Team’s (PHT) structure, history, mandate, and activities related to disaster response in the region. She said that the PHT could contribute to the prevention of and response to disaster-induced cross-border displacement by providing guidance on protection issues, advocating for general protection issues, and facilitating information-sharing.
2.2.7 SPREP Integrated Session on Loss and Damage

The purpose of this session was to introduce the concept of loss and damage within the context of the UNFCCC, and to discuss its relevance to displacement and migration as a form of adaptation to climate change. The discussion focused on insurance schemes and compensation issues.

Key messages from the presentations and discussion:

- Loss and damage is a relatively new concept that is widely discussed and debated, but in general refers to the effects of a failure to mitigate or adapt to climate change.
- The Pacific region as a whole lacks adequate, affordable insurance schemes for housing and infrastructure in disaster contexts.
- Pacific Island states need additional technical skills to implement insurance schemes, which could be one way to mitigate and/or respond to the potential cost of loss and damage.
- Outcomes of the Nansen Initiative Pacific Consultation should be shared within the context of the UNFCCC preparatory meetings in Bonn in June 2013.
- Addressing migration as adaptation within negotiations on compensation poses many challenges, such as how to address issues like cultural loss.

Loss and Damage: An Introduction
Clark Peturu
Environmental Legal Advisor at the Secretariat of the Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Peturu provided an overview of the definition of the concept of loss and damage, explaining that it is relevant when mitigation and adaptation measures have failed. He explained that after 20 years, the UNFCCC negotiations are focusing on addressing outstanding legal questions associated with potential compensation, with less emphasis on trying to establish liability.

SPREP’s Work on Climate Change
Espen Ronneberg
Climate Change Advisor at the Secretariat of the Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Ronneberg provided an overview of SPREP’s past and present projects relevant to the current debate on loss and damage, including the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Program. He explained that for many years AOSIS had called for strengthened technical capacity at the national and regional level to help states implement appropriate insurance, rehabilitation, and risk management measures.

2.3 EXAMPLES OF EXISTING PRACTICE AND POLICIES

The Consultation provided opportunities to learn from practice and initiatives that have responded to challenges of human mobility in the context of natural disasters and the adverse effect of climate change in the Pacific region. Throughout the Consultation, participants and presenters identified or referred to initiatives and actions at the community, national, regional and international levels that strengthened preparedness, adaptation and resilience, and responded to some of the protection needs and challenges faced by those who moved (whether voluntarily or by force).

The following list of examples from the Pacific region was not formally endorsed by the participants, and is neither exhaustive nor necessarily representative of the breadth of practice presented and discussed during the Consultation. It also does not do justice to the complexity, richness and wider consequences and impact of the actions. Nevertheless, these brief descriptions pulled out of participants’ presentations and discussions may provide inspiration for action elsewhere.

Community level

- Engaging civil society, churches and traditional leaders at all stages of a relocation process (preparation, impact assessment, planning, movement and follow-up, etc.) is crucial. Such actors have played a key role in supporting a consultative process between moving and receiving communities. It is important to learn from community consultation strategies that have proven effective (e.g., Fiji, Vanuatu).
- Shelters called hostels on the main island of Rarotonga have been designated for displaced and moving members of communities from low-lying and out-lying atolls (Cook Islands).

3 Please also note that each presentation from the technical workshop has been uploaded to the Nansen Initiative website: www.nanseninitiative.org
• People’s safety may have been improved by the existence of early-warning systems based on communication equipment (satellite phones and radios) deployed and pre-positioned to outlying islands (Cook Islands).

National Level

• Prepositioning relief supplies, and training disaster management officials and first-line responders have improved overall disaster respond capacity and strengthened affected population’s resilience to cope with the adverse consequences of disasters (e.g., Cook Islands, Samoa).

• Response and evacuation plans with clearly designated responsibilities of local and national authorities have enhanced preparedness for disasters (Samoa).

• Populations are better prepared to migrate in dignity and safety through development programs that have provided opportunities for continuous education upskilling and vocational training (Kiribati).

• Participants in seasonal worker programs abroad have access to complementary training and skills diversification offered by their national government (Vanuatu).

• Tuvalu’s National Consultation (2011) sought the opinion of its citizens to contribute to the further development of country’s national adaptation and relocation policies in the context of climate change.

• Disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) policy and planning instruments (JNAPs) have been integrated within common documents in several countries (e.g., Tonga, Cook Islands, Fiji and Kiribati).

Regional level

• The Pacific Qualification Framework (PQF) and the Regional Education Fund (REF) provide opportunities for Pacific Islanders to have their education certified and accredited in other Pacific countries, facilitating greater livelihood opportunities.

• The international response to the cyclone in Manihiki, Cook Islands provides an example of international cooperation, solidarity and response to a sudden-onset disaster (New Zealand and Cook Islands).

• The informal arrangement in place between the Cook Islands and Samoa for the provision of cyclone relief shows the potential for preparedness and burden-sharing in situations when national response capacity is overwhelmed.

International

• Prevention, coordination and mainstreaming of protection concerns in disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response plans have been strengthened through the participation of national authorities and international organizations in joint contingency planning and training exercises for disaster responders (Pacific Humanitarian Team).

• The Pacific region has initiated a process to develop an integrated Pacific Regional Strategy for DRR and CCA in 2015.

• Regional risk assessment tools to model and understand exposure to disasters provide a potential protection tool that can identify gaps, build preparedness and prevent displacement by modeling hazards and identifying at-risk areas and populations (Pacific Risk Information System – PaCRIS).

• Access to dual citizenship can facilitate migration in dignity, strengthen cultural identity and support durable solutions (e.g., Cook Islands, New Zealand).
The two-day technical workshop generated rich discussions around issues related to human mobility, disasters and both the immediate and slow-onset impacts of climate change.

Our discussions and the outcomes from this dialogue reiterate the fact that any movement of population as a result of disasters and climate change is a last resort. Our people want to remain and live meaningful lives on their islands. We must continue to push for mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation measures to allow our people to live in our islands. However, as pointed by representatives from Kiribati and Tuvalu, we cannot ignore the fact that the movement of people needs to be discussed and bought out into the open from the shadows of disaster risk reduction and climate change debate. Failing to do so will be like burying our heads in the sand.

The movement of people in our region is not a new phenomenon. Workshop participants shared the experiences of people from Banaba in Kiribati and Kioa in Tuvalu relocating to islands in Fiji to more habitable areas. People in Vanuatu have also moved to other parts of the country seeking safer homes. With these experiences that have been shared we have learnt that relocation is traumatic to say the least. One particularly difficult challenge is maintaining cultural ties. There is a saying that blood and mud are mixed together to provide identity – this highlights the deep connection that our Pacific people have with their land.

Our discussions have emphasised that forced migration is not an option. Movement and relocation must be facilitated in a manner that respects the dignity of all people involved in the process, including those who move, those who stay behind, and host communities. Each must also have the capacity to deal with the changes that the process. Building this capacity through consultation, education, awareness, training, including skills enhancement is essential.

Participants acknowledged that human mobility in the context of natural disasters and climate change is complex. For example, planned relocation to a new country requires addressing issues such as citizenship, clarifying rights in the receiving country, and protection. Whatever mechanisms we create to respond to these challenges must include a consultative, participatory and bottom-up approach.

Our deliberations also raised the obvious issue of costs. Calculating these costs is extremely difficult. Can you put a dollar price on birth right, nationhood, sense of belonging, loss of traditions as well as traditional systems, and emotions?

Such complexities around human mobility, coupled with those related to climate change, highlight the need for a significant level of thought, dialogue, data, and evidence to inform policy decisions.

We are pleased that through this Consultation we have started thinking about human mobility as a result of disasters and climate change, initiated meaningful dialogue, identified critical needs and challenges, and elaborated potential ways to address these needs and challenges.

For too long the issue of mobility as a result of disasters and climate change has remained in the ‘too hard’ basket. During the technical workshop we feel that we have taken the issue out of the too hard basket. As a result, we now have a viable platform from which to spring and build momentum. We are appreciative to the Nansen Initiative for enabling this Pacific dialogue to happen, and to the experts that have assisted throughout this consultation. I am certain that these discussions will provide valuable input and food for thought for the Nansen Initiative process as a whole. It is our hope as participants in this Consultation that the political leaders attending the Consultation as our elected representatives will progress on what has been accomplished in these past few days.
### 3.11 AGENDA

Pacific Regional Consultation: “Human Mobility, Natural Disasters and Climate Change in the Pacific”
Rarotonga, Cook Islands from 21-24 May 2013

**Expected outcomes of day one:**
- Familiarity with the Nansen Initiative and its relevance for the Pacific region
- Initial thoughts about expected outcomes of the consultation

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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.30 – 14.00</td>
<td>Lunch (Edgewater Restaurant)</td>
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<td>14.00 – 17.00</td>
<td>Opening Session</td>
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<td>14.00 – 14.15</td>
<td>Welcome and opening ceremony: Cook Islands Government</td>
<td>Hon. Henry Puna, Prime Minister</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.15 – 14.35</td>
<td>Statements from Nansen Initiative Steering Group Members</td>
<td>Hon. Marion Weichelt Krupski Mr. Johan Meyer Ms. Susan Atkinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.35 – 14.45</td>
<td>Energizer: Presentation of participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.45 – 15.10</td>
<td>Overview of the Nansen Initiative and background for the Pacific consultation</td>
<td>Prof. Walter Kaelin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.10 – 15.20</td>
<td>Introductory remarks: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)</td>
<td>Mr. Espen Ronneberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.20 - 15.50</td>
<td>Keynote address: “Relevance of the Nansen Initiative for Kiribati and the Pacific Region”</td>
<td>Hon. Ms. Teima Onorio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.50 – 16.15</td>
<td>Refreshments</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.15 – 17.00</td>
<td>Discussion on expected outcomes of the consultation</td>
<td>Ms. Liz Wright-Koteka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.00</td>
<td>Housekeeping End of Day One</td>
<td>Chair</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Expected outcomes of day two:

- A better understanding of the situation and relationship between human mobility, natural disasters and climate change in the Pacific region
- A better understanding of protection concerns in the context of human mobility and disasters in the Pacific region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Remarks/Responsibility</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08.00 – 12.30</td>
<td>Morning Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>08.00 – 08.15</td>
<td>Summary of day one (Chair, Ms. Wright-Koteka)</td>
<td>CIG (OPM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>08.15 – 09.30</td>
<td>Panel One: Overview of human mobility in the Pacific and key protection challenges</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Overview of current and anticipated population movements: NRC IDMC (Mr. Justin Ginnetti and Mr. Christopher Lavell)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Country perspective: Govt. of Tuvalu</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Civil society perspective: Pacific Conference of Churches (Netani Rika)</td>
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<td>• Protection concerns: Lessons from the past (Prof. Jane McAdam)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Land issues (Prof. Daniel Fitzpatrick)</td>
<td>Maximum 7-10 minutes per presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>09.30 – 10.00</td>
<td>Refreshments</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00 – 11.30</td>
<td>Panel Two: Migration as Adaptation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Interest of workers in climate change (Anthony Turoa)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Admission in the Pacific region and beyond (Mr. Bruce Burson)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Migration in Dignity: Govt. of Kiribati</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Niue as a receiving country: Govt. of Niue</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• IOM’s perspective on migration as adaptation: IOM (Lesi Korovavala)</td>
<td>Maximum 7-10 minutes per presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30 – 12.30</td>
<td>Small group discussion (four groups): Facilitators from the Cook Islands Government and experts ask participants to reflect on the two morning panels. Groups then report back to plenary. Questions: What are the key messages? What do you take from the presentations thus far? Do you have other examples? Was something not mentioned?</td>
<td>NI/SPREP/CCCI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30 – 14.00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00 – 17.00</td>
<td>Afternoon Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00 – 15.15</td>
<td>Panel Three: Planned Relocation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Learning from the past: Relocation and resettlement standards (Prof. John Campbell)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Community perspectives: KiriCAN (Ms. Penelise Alofa)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Country example: Govt. of Fiji</td>
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<td>• Country example: Govt. of the Cook Islands (Manihiki atoll)</td>
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<td>• Vanuatu’s migration as adaptation project (Govt. + SPREP)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Adaptation projects that include relocation (Niki Rattle)</td>
<td>Maximum 7-10 minutes per presentation</td>
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</table>
Expected outcomes of day three:

1. Identification of standards of treatment and good practices that support the interests and rights of affected populations during cross-border migration, planned relocation and displacement in the context of slow and sudden-onset natural disasters.

2. Identification of good practices and suggestions for the incorporation of human mobility related to natural disasters within national, regional and international processes.

3. An understanding of the types of institutional arrangements, such as an international mechanism to address loss and damage that might best serve the Pacific region’s needs.

Day Three: Thursday, 23 May 2013

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<tr>
<td>08.00 – 08.15</td>
<td>Summary of day one (Chair, Ms. Wright-Koteka)</td>
<td>CIG (OPM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>08.15 – 10.15</td>
<td>Working Groups - Protecting the dignity and the rights of affected people in the context of:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(2) Migration as Adaptation (TBD: Govt. and Expert to facilitate discussion and report back to plenary.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(3) Planned Relocation (TBD: Govt. and Expert to facilitate discussion and report back to plenary.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(4) Displacement-Protection during displacement (TBD: Govt. and Expert to facilitate discussion and report back to plenary.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(5) Displacement-Durable solutions (TBD: Govt. and Expert to facilitate discussion and report back to plenary.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.15 – 10.45</td>
<td>Refreshments</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.45 – 12.30</td>
<td>Working groups report back to plenary, followed by discussion</td>
<td>Session led by Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.15 – 10.45</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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### Day Four: Governmental Dialogue – Friday, 24 May 2013

**Expected outcomes of day three:**

1. An outcome statement identifying common challenges in the Pacific and a set of messages on human mobility in the context of natural disasters and climate change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>09.00 – 12.30</td>
<td><strong>Morning Session</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>09.00 – 09.15</td>
<td>Opening remarks and introductions by the chair</td>
<td>Liz Wright-Koteka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.15 – 11.00</td>
<td><strong>Government Panels:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Workshop report presented to the Ministers</td>
<td>H.E. Henry Puna</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Response to the report from Ministers</td>
<td>H.E. Marion Weichelt Krupski</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Remarks by SPREP Director General</td>
<td>Mr. Johan Meyer</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Remarks by the Nansen Initiative Envoy</td>
<td>Mr. David Sheppard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Statement from the Switzerland Ambassador to New Zealand and the Cook Islands</td>
<td>Mr. Walter Kaelin Ms. Liz Wright-Koteka</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presentation by the Government of Norway</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00 – 11.20</td>
<td><strong>Refreshments</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11.20 – 12.20</td>
<td>Government Panel continued...</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Closing statement by the Cook Islands Prime Minister</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.20 – 14.00</td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>17.00</td>
<td>Cocktail hosted by the Cook Islands Government</td>
<td>Office of the Prime Minister of Cook Islands</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 3.2 Participant List

#### The Pacific Consultation: Human Mobility, Natural Disasters and Climate Change in the Pacific
**21-24 May 2013, Rarotonga, Cook Islands**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Country/Organization</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Ms Susan Atkinson</td>
<td>Director, United Nations and International Organization, Department of Immigration and Citizenship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Hon. Henry Puna</td>
<td>Prime Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Hon. Tom Marsters</td>
<td>Deputy Prime Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Ms Elizabeth Koteka</td>
<td>Chief of Staff, Office of the Prime Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Ms Ana Tira</td>
<td>Director, Climate Change Division, Office of the Prime Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Ms Sandra Tisam</td>
<td>International Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Ms Amelia Fukofuka</td>
<td>UN &amp; Treaties Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Ms Turi Matai'apo</td>
<td>President, Koutu Nui (Traditional Leaders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Vakatini Ariki</td>
<td>Representative of House of Ariki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Frances Topa-Fariu</td>
<td>Secretary General, Red Cross Cook Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Ms Niki Rattle</td>
<td>Madam Speaker, Parliament of Cook Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Mr. Tervor Pitt</td>
<td>Advisor, Office of the Prime Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Teina Rongo</td>
<td>Climate Change Advisor, Office of the Prime Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Louisa Karika</td>
<td>National Environment Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Anthony Turua</td>
<td>Department of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Celine Dyer</td>
<td>Climate Change Division, Office of the Prime Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>William Tuivaga</td>
<td>Climate Change Division, Office of the Prime Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Bredina Drollet</td>
<td>Secretary, Internal Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Robert Matapo</td>
<td>Climate Change Division, Office of the Prime Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Teresa Manarangi-Trott</td>
<td>President, Chamber of Commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>Mr Manasa Katonivualiku</td>
<td>CDM &amp; 2nd National Communication Project Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Hon. (Ms) Teima Onorio</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Mr. Andrew Teem</td>
<td>Senior Policy Advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Mr Tebao Awerika</td>
<td>Secretary for Office of the President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>H.E. Mr Sprent Dabwido</td>
<td>President and Head of Nauru Delegation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>Mrs Sheeva Cook</td>
<td>Aid-de-Camp to the President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>Mr Samuel Grundler</td>
<td>Official Delegate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>H.E. Mr John Carter</td>
<td>New Zealand High Commissioner, Cook Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Ms Joanna Kempkers</td>
<td>New Zealand Deputy High Commissioner, Cook Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Mr Roger Duncan</td>
<td>Senior Policy Officer Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Mr Sean Buckley</td>
<td>Senior Development Programe Coordinator, New Zealand High Commissioner, Cook Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Niue</td>
<td>Mr. Talaittama Talaiti</td>
<td>Member of Legislative Assembly (Associate Minister for External Affairs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Niue</td>
<td>Mr. Justin Kamupala</td>
<td>Secretary of Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Mr. Johan Meyer</td>
<td>Refugee Policy Adviser, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Samoa</td>
<td>Hon Tuisa Tasi Patea</td>
<td>Associate Minister of Police, Ministry of Police &amp; Prison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Samoa</td>
<td>Ms Kalameli Seuseu-So'o</td>
<td>Principal State Solicitor, Office of the Attorney General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>Ms Marion Weichelt Krupski</td>
<td>Ambassador, Embassy of Switzerland in New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>Mr. Adrian Junker</td>
<td>Head of Section, Humanitarian Policy and Migration, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>Ms Maria-Lena Brenn</td>
<td>Desk Officer, Humanitarian Policy and Migration, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Tuvalu</td>
<td>Hon. Apisai Lelemia</td>
<td>Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Tourism, Environment, and Labour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Tuvalu</td>
<td>Mr. Tapuago Falefou</td>
<td>Permanent Secretary for Ministr of Foreing Affairs, Trade, Tourism, Env &amp; Labour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>Mr. Morris Harrison</td>
<td>Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazard Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>Mr. Peter Korisa</td>
<td>National Disaster Management Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat</td>
<td>Mr Filipo Masaurua</td>
<td>Deputy Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme</td>
<td>Mr. David Sheppard</td>
<td>Director General, Secretariat of the Regional Environment Programme</td>
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<td>46</td>
<td>Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme</td>
<td>Mr Espen Ronneberg</td>
<td>Climate Change Adviser, Secretariat of the Regional Environment Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme</td>
<td>Mr Clark Peteru</td>
<td>Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme, Samoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Asian Development Bank</td>
<td>Ms Vanessa Jenner</td>
<td>ADB Representative Cook Islands</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Cook Islands Red Cross</td>
<td>Ms Fine-Tuitupou Arnold</td>
<td>Advocacy and Policy Adviser</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>European Union</td>
<td>Mr John Stanley</td>
<td>Head of Technical Office of the EU in Samoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>International Organizaiton for Migration</td>
<td>Dr. Lesi Korovavala</td>
<td>Head of Office / Program Manager Vanuatu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</td>
<td>Ms Rashmi Rita</td>
<td>Humanitarian Affairs Officer Suva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
<td>Ms Catherine Gordon</td>
<td>Liaison Officer for the Pacific, Regional Office Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>Cook Islands Red Cross</td>
<td>Reboama Samuel</td>
<td>Red Cross</td>
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<td>55</td>
<td>Cook Islands Red Cross</td>
<td>Charlie Numanga</td>
<td>Red Cross</td>
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<td>56</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Taimata Allsworth</td>
<td>UN Programme Development Coordinator, Ministry of Finance and Economic Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>Australian National University</td>
<td>Mr John Campbell</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>Australian National University</td>
<td>Mr Daniel Fitzpatrick</td>
<td>Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>Internal Displacement Monitoring Center</td>
<td>Mr Justin Ginnetti</td>
<td>Senior Advisor, Geneva</td>
</tr>
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<td>60</td>
<td>Kiribati Climate Action Network</td>
<td>Ms Penelise Alofa</td>
<td>National Coordinator, Kiribati</td>
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<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>Pacific Conference of Churches</td>
<td>Mr Netani Rika</td>
<td>Communications Officer, Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>Secretariat of the Pacific Community</td>
<td>Ms Susan Vocea</td>
<td>Senior Adviser Risk Reduction</td>
</tr>
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<td>63</td>
<td>The University of the South Pacific, Cook Islands</td>
<td>Mr John Hay</td>
<td>Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>University of New South Wales</td>
<td>Ms Jane McAdam</td>
<td>Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Mr Bruce Burson</td>
<td>Consultant in Refugee/Migration Law and Policy</td>
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<td>66</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Keu Mataroa</td>
<td>Civil Society</td>
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<td>67</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Tina Newport</td>
<td>NGO</td>
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<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Maureen Hilyard</td>
<td>NGO</td>
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<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Mr. Kelvin Passfield</td>
<td>TIS - NGO</td>
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<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>Nansen Initiative</td>
<td>Mr Walter Kaelin</td>
<td>Envoy of the Chairmanship of the Nansen Initiative</td>
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<td>71</td>
<td>Nansen Initiative</td>
<td>Mr Atle Solberg</td>
<td>Head of the Nansen Initiative Secretariat</td>
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<td>72</td>
<td>Nansen Initiative</td>
<td>Ms Hannah Entwisle Chapuisat</td>
<td>Research &amp; Partnerships Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>Nansen Initiative</td>
<td>Mr Saboor Atrafi</td>
<td>Events &amp; Communications Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>Nansen Initiative</td>
<td>Mr Ewan Cameroon</td>
<td>Pacific Consultation Coordinator</td>
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</table>
This is a multi-partner project funded by the European Commission (EC) whose overall aim is to address a legal gap regarding cross-border displacement in the context of disasters. The project brings together the expertise of three distinct partners (UNHCR, NRC/IDMC and the Nansen Initiative) seeking to:

1. increase the understanding of States and relevant actors in the international community about displacement related to disasters and climate change;

2. equip them to plan for and manage internal relocations of populations in a protection sensitive manner; and

3. provide States and other relevant actors tools and guidance to protect persons who cross international borders owing to disasters, including those linked to climate change.