



PIANGO

Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
Association des ONGs des Iles de Pacifique

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PIANGO Management Team

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PIANGO Regional Communications and Advocacy Workshop on Climate Change



Participants at PIANGO's Regional Communications and Advocacy Workshop on Climate Change, held in Nadi, Fiji Islands in December 2011.

Representatives of six Pacific Island Countries and members of PIANGO's National Liaison Units from Fiji, the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu participated in a Regional Climate Change Advocacy and Communications Workshop in Nadi, Fiji Islands, from 14-16 December, 2011.

The purpose of the Workshop was to contextualise the global situation on climate change and the ensuing challenges and issues as a result of development. It also focused on sharing Pacific stories, challenges and actions in the area of climate change with a view to consolidating activities and actions and identified the Pacific's religious and spiritual foundations and contexts in terms of climate change actions. The workshop also discussed advocacy and communications tools and strategies to advocate the issue of climate change at media, local and policy levels and developed a framework for a toolkit on climate change advocacy and actions. The toolkit will be adapted, translated and used at community and local levels in the Pacific Islands.

Participating Pacific countries identified the following as being critical elements of the region's approach to climate change advocacy and actions:



"The coconut has fallen", emphasised PIANGO's Fiji Board Member, Mrs Lorine Tevi at the end of the Regional Communications and Advocacy Workshop on Climate Change.

- The need to consider Creation/Spirituality/Stewardship aspects in the context of human responsibility for planet Earth and the interconnectedness of Pacific people with God.
- Rethinking of the present development paradigm.
- Building community resilience to ensure effective participation and informed decision making.
- Respect for the role and services of nature.

- Viewing the Pacific Islands as a global good in terms of strengthening capacity needs and adopting a “vulnerability to values” ideology.
- Adopting a human rights-based approach to climate justice actions.

The major outcome of the workshop was the development of a framework for a Tool Kit on Building Resilient Communities. The toolkit will aim to adopt a bottom-up approach to climate change actions, targeting action from the local to policy level.

2011 - The Year in Focus

PIANGO Re-emerges as a Regional and Global Civil Society Leader

In February 2010, 12 countries paid their own airfares to attend the PIANGO Special Council Meeting in Nadi, Fiji. The meeting was convened to decide on PIANGO’s future following defunding by NZAID and the collapse of the Secretariat in May 2009.

At that meeting, PIANGO members were emphatic that the organisation was not an office funded by donors but one made up of its membership National Liaison Units (NLUs). The NLUs emphasised that they are PIANGO and said they wanted to see the PIANGO Secretariat continue and the organisation retain its role as a regional platform – however, with a change in direction.

They called for PIANGO to devolve itself of running programs and become a global platform to reflect Pacific voices in the regional and global arena. This Special meeting confirmed two specific issues for PIANGO to pursue – CSO Development Effectiveness and Climate Change communication. The year 2011 saw the active involvement by PIANGO in both areas.

CSO Development Effectiveness

With funding support from the Open Forum on CSO Development Effectiveness, PIANGO received project funding through InterAction – the US national umbrella platform - to convene a national workshop in Fiji and a regional workshop in Tonga in May 2010 to identify the core principles for CSO development effectiveness.

These core principles were consolidated with contributions from 70 other countries and were endorsed at a General Assembly in September 2010 in Istanbul, Turkey. These have now become known as the Istanbul Principles. At that Istanbul meeting, PIANGO’s Interim Executive Director, Emele Duituturaga was also nominated as the Pacific Representative on the Open Forum Global Facilitation Group and was subsequently elected as Co-Chair of the Open Forum - which placed PIANGO in a global leadership role.

In March, a small regional meeting met to discuss the draft International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness and the development of a PIANGO Code of Conduct modeled on the Australia Council for International Development (ACFID) Code. PIANGO has been discussing with ACFID a partnership to develop the PIANGO Code which will focus on three pilot countries, commencing with the Civil Society Forum of Tonga.



Emeline Siale Ilohaia of the Civil Society Forum of Tonga (CSFT) presents a report on behalf of her group at PIANGO’s Regional Climate Change workshop in December.

In June 2011, the Open Forum Second Global Assembly was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, which discussed the International Framework. PIANGO was the chair of the global Assembly and steered the meeting to adopt the International Framework now known as the Siem Reap Consensus on the International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness.

The 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4) was held on 29 November-1 December in Busan, South Korea. This was preceded by a three-day Busan Civil Society Forum which again, was co-Chaired by PIANGO and attended by 500 CSO representatives from around the world. Mr Drew Havea, PIANGO Board Chair and the Interim Executive Director, Ms Emele Duituturaga both attended HLF4 and PIANGO was given the honour of delivering an address at the closing ceremony of the HLF4.

Climate Change Communication

In 2008, PIANGO was among 80 National platforms which gathered in Paris to establish the International Forum of National Platforms (IFP). The work of the IFP is carried out through Non Governmental Diplomacy Exercises (NGDE). PIANGO was appointed to lead the Climate Change NGDE given it is a priority concern for the region. PIANGO is also a member of the Facilitation Group which is the interim governing body for the IFP.

In 2010, PIANGO received funding support from Coordination Sud, the French National Platform and also the International Secretariat for the IFP, to implement the Climate Change NGDE. These funds have enabled PIANGO to keep its regional secretariat operating in the past two years through engagement of project staff and a consultant Communications Adviser which enabled communication advocacy activities to be carried out in Fiji, Samoa and Kiribati in 2010.



Participants at PIANGO's Regional Climate Change Communications and Advocacy Workshop in Nadi, Fiji, December 2011.

The inaugural General Assembly of the IFP was held in Dakar, Senegal in February this year and attended by the PIANGO Interim Executive Director. A further meeting of the IFP Facilitation Group was held in Paris in October attended by the PIANGO Communications Adviser, Debbie Singh. The meeting was held back to back with the G20 meeting and the IFP leaders, including PIANGO, held a special audience with the French President.

PIANGO again received project funding this year for the Climate change NGDE and regional coordination and is now developing a tool kit for community resilience with particular focus on Kiribati, Tuvalu, Tonga, Cook Islands, Fiji, and PNG. A regional workshop was held in December 2011 to develop the tool kit with specific contributions from PCC, Pacific Can and IUCN. Two newsletters have been produced between October to December 2011 and the PIANGO website has been updated and improved.

Where to Next?

In the first quarter of 2012, PIANGO will be consolidating its Strategic Development Plan 2012-2015. This will set the course for its future directions. Apart from active engagement with the two issues above, PIANGO has also been working with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Commonwealth Foundation.

PIANGO will be looking to secure core funding support and a couple of regional projects to consolidate its funding base, advertise positions and have a fully functioning Secretariat in 2012.

From the Board and Staff of PIANGO, we thank you for your support in 2011 and look forward to a more prosperous 2012.

New Look for PIANGO Website

The PIANGO website has recently been updated and now contains global and regional news and current information on PIANGO's National Liaison Units (NLUs) in the Pacific Islands. This exercise was conducted as part of activities under the Non Government Diplomacy Exercise (NGDE) on climate change, funded through Coordination Sud, based in Paris, France.

Besides the general updates, the website has been equipped with Google's translation tool which facilitates the translation of its

contents into more than 60 languages. Its pages also have a "Share It" button which allows the sharing of the site's content with over 300 social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Bebo and so on. Each NLU country page has also been equipped with a clock which shows the local time of the particular country.

The new-look site also has a hit-counter which, besides letting people know the number of site visitors, allows one to determine, for example, where these visitors come from.

"It is interesting to note that in the first two weeks of installing the hit-counter, the site has had visitors from Fiji, USA, New Zealand, the UK, Australia, India, Germany, France, Italy, New Caledonia, Thailand, Romania, Belgium, Turkey, Guam, Canada, Spain, Switzerland, Pakistan, Iran, Slovak Republic, Albania, Denmark and Tonga," said Mark Borg, the consultant who worked on updating the website.

"An organisation-wide discussion is required for the PIANGO Board, the Secretariat and the NLUs of each member country to agree on how the website can effectively assist them in their work, that is, what kind of information and tools it should carry, taking into consideration that a number of NLUs also have their own websites," Mr Borg said.



The Outcomes of Durban COP17: Turning Words into Action

Since the COP17 climate talks ended in early December in Durban, South Africa, many people have been asking the same question - Was it a success? Analysts from government, media and NGOs seem to be taking one of two stances: "It was a good step forward" (for example, the official UNFCCC Press Release: "Durban Conference Delivers Breakthrough in International Community's Response to Climate Change") or "It failed to deliver what is needed" (as in the WWF Press Release: "Governments Fail on Ambition, Courage at UN Climate Change Talks.")

The Women's Environment Development Organisation (WEDO) has been linking gender and climate change issues and assessing the real effect of this on the COP17 outcome. Agnes Otzelberger of CARE International said "Packaged in the term 'gender sensitive' is the ambition for global responses to climate change to include, benefit and reflect the needs and priorities of poor men and women worldwide - in other words, to ensure these responses do not perpetuate or widen gender inequalities by missing out on large parts of the people who are part of the solution."



Pelenise Alofa of Kiribati presents a report at the PIANGO Regional Workshop following the Climate Change COP17 meeting held in Durban, South Africa in December 2011.

In the early morning of December 11th, two days after the talks were scheduled to conclude, countries agreed upon a process from 2012 to 2015 to "develop a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the UNFCCC applicable to all Parties", which would come into effect after 2020.



The legally binding agreement, which many had hoped to achieve in 2009 at COP15, has now been pushed to 2015. Climate Action Tracker estimates that the current level of ambition towards cutting emissions will result in a 3.5°C increase in global mean temperatures by 2100 and essentially guarantee a temperature increase of 2°C. This will result in irreversible ecosystem changes affecting the lives of billions of individuals.

What has yet to be seen are true and ambitious efforts to develop an agreement that will save the lives of the millions of women and men who are already suffering the impacts of climate change and the generations to come who will suffer even more. We have now seen two COPs after Copenhagen "successfully" save the process, but we're running out of time to save the lives of billions of people and to ensure our future. *[Adapted from Climate*

Change, News, WEDO at COP17].

WEDO says: "In Durban, there was some success in that respect: references to women and gender were secured across several areas. In addition, achieving references to gender in both the Green Climate Fund and the Climate Technology Centre and Network also represent significant progress, as these were often areas where gender considerations and social considerations - had been largely ignored."

But can we deem "The Durban Package" a success? As the problems of climate change become ever more urgent, the UNFCCC process, which itself is dependent on the political will of countries to address these issues, has resulted in another delay to real solutions.

