

Pacific Islands Association of Non Government Organisations

“Community Action through NGO Coordination in adapting to and mitigating against Climate Change for a Safer Pacific and Better World”

A POSITION PAPER ON CLIMATE CHANGE

INTRODUCTION

The Pacific Islands Association of Non Government Organisations (PIANGO) is the umbrella Pacific Body of National Umbrella NGO in 22 Pacific Island Countries and Territories of American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, Kanaky, Kiribati, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tahiti, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, including Australia and New Zealand.

Following the three year PIANGO governing body meeting of August 2008, the PIANGO representatives participated in the Pacific CSO Forum of Pacific CSO bodies to deliberate on key issues. Amongst these was Climate Change.

PIANGO is not a Climate Change focused organisation but sees its role in communicating, raising awareness and disseminating information at the community level through the NGO network and the umbrella NGO bodies who make up the PIANGO network

PIANGO is also part the regional network of NGOS which is PRNGO. PIANGO has also partnered with Coordination Sud, the French National Platform of NGOs to lead the NGO diplomacy exercise on Climate Change.

This position paper reiterates the actions that PIANGO body has agreed to at the August 2008 CSO Forum. Subsequently PIANGO through PRNGO has also endorsed a Pacific Regional position in July 2009 called “No Island left behind”.

AUGUST 2008 CLIMATE CHANGE

Pacific CSO’s identified the need for the following consolidated actions:

- (i) Move towards a regional Climate Action Network (CAN) and establish a CAN organisation in each Pacific country (as well as in the Cook Islands and Tuvalu).
- (ii) Continued engagement with Pacific governments on the issue of climate change including CSO representation on Government delegations to international climate change negotiations.
- (iii) Sharing of information and learning on practical projects (such as mangrove replanting) – Action: FSPI/WWF South Pacific Programme.

- (iv) Capture and share stories and materials (including DVDs) on climate change in the Pacific – Action: Dev Zone, Pacific Co-operation Foundation (PCF) web-site to host
- (v) Educate the Pacific media on climate change issues – Action: PINA, Commonwealth Foundation, Pacific Co-operation Foundation (PCF) to make training materials and funding available.
- (vi) Raise issues of morality, ethics and human rights for the Pacific in polluting countries like US and EU with a tour by “champions” and young people.
- (vii) Form alliances of churches, NGOs, media, trade unions, pacific businesses and polluting nations to push the issue of climate change.
- (viii) Support initiatives to raise the profile of climate change publicly, including an initiative where the CSO Forum could commit to supporting Earth Hour and the focus of Climate Change - Conference of the Parties (COP 15) on the Pacific in 2009.
- (ix) Pressure Australia and New Zealand to reduce emissions, support binding international targets for developed countries and provide new money for adaptation – Action: Oxfam, CID, ACFID and other Australia and NZ NGOs.
- (x) Identify sources of funding and lobby to make more funds available to Pacific CSOs, including GEF, bilateral donors, international agencies – Action: FSPI, Oxfam NZ, WWF South Pacific (as think tank).
- (xi) Increase capacity building for CSO members – Action: PIANGO, WWF South Pacific and Oxfam (NZ and Australia).
- (xii) Undertake concerted moves towards improvements to regional, secular and religious curriculum education on global warming.
- (xiii) Lobby Australia, NZ and other donors for the commitment of substantial resources for community adaptation programmes and funding for resettlement for Tuvalu, Kiribati and other affected island countries and communities and call on Pacific Governments to support and welcome people affected by climate change.