

AUSTRALIA PACIFIC CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP MID-TERM REVIEW REPORT - MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Summary of management response

This Mid Term Review (MTR) was conducted for the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in the third year of the Australia Pacific Climate Partnership (APCP) (2018-2022) to inform DFAT decision making on an extension or recalibration of APCP in 2022. DFAT agrees that although the partnership model has not been a successful coordination mechanism, the integration of climate change and disaster resilience into the Australian development program in the Pacific has been strong, ongoing collaboration should be continued and a forward phase can focus more on supporting resilience integration with Pacific partners. Operationally, resilience integration, Support Unit capacity and communication activities have been sound and will be the focus of continual improvement going forward.

Individual management response to the recommendations

Recommendation	Response	Explanation	Action plan	Timeframe
<p>Recommendation 1</p> <p>Wind down the partnership approach and allow the sub-programs to continue independently</p>	Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The partnership model, based on the logic of linking science to decision making through knowledge brokering, has not been effective in bringing separate programs together. These programs have however successfully operated independently with some examples of effective cooperation. There are ongoing opportunities for future collaboration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform sub programs that internally the formal partnership model will cease but ongoing collaboration is encouraged. Externally, the APCP title remains relevant in terms of working in partnership with the Pacific. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immediately, upon acceptance of final report.
<p>Recommendation 2</p> <p>Enhance engagement with Pacific partners</p>	Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The initial stage of APCP has necessarily focussed integrating resilience into all sectors of the Australian Development program in the Pacific. APCP has made progress in working with Pacific partners and expertise, which will become a stronger focus going forward. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue scale up of resilience integration into Australia's Pacific development program and increase focus on working with Pacific partners towards their national priorities and on drawing in Pacific expertise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immediate upon acceptance of the report and ongoing.

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<p>Recommendation 3</p> <p>Develop DFAT internal expertise on climate change</p>	Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While DFAT does have significant climate change expertise, there has been limited availability to quality assure the work of the Support Unit and for OTP to link with climate change and humanitarian divisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue internal training and staff capacity development and build cross divisional linkages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing
<p>Recommendation 4</p> <p>Strengthen the Support Unit to ensure it is fit-for purpose as its role evolves</p>	Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Support Unit provides critical support to Australia's investments across the Pacific, and this will continue to grow and strengthen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DFAT will consider suggested opportunities in the forward phase. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be reviewed and implemented by 1 July 2022.
<p>Recommendation 5</p> <p>Enhance integration by strengthening internal incentives</p>	Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of resilience into DFAT's Pacific programs has been strengthened significantly since 2018 and there is potential to enhance and institutionalise integration further, which will require improved DFAT-wide capacity and systems for climate and disaster risk reduction integration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DFAT will build on integration achievements over the initial phase of APCP, including provision of advice to aid management and training processes, to ensure implementation of DFAT's climate change action strategy and climate finance commitments by 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing
<p>Recommendation 6</p> <p>Sharpen the focus of communications to promote Australia as a valued climate partner</p>	Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicating Pacific climate change and disaster resilience achievements with Australian Government support is an important part of building Australia's reputation as a climate change partner in the Pacific. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DFAT and SU to: agree and resource focussed and tailored communication priorities and products; review clearance and dissemination processes; and review the Communications Plan. 	