Managing Urbanisation in the Pacific

14 October, 2010

Technical Working Session
CLGF 2010 Pacific Local Government Symposium

Building local government alliances: for vibrant and resilient local economies and communities in the Pacific
Are we on the same page? Defining Urban and urbanisation

- Urbanisation is the process whereby an increasing proportion of the national population comes to live in towns.
- City and town boundaries are blurred;
- RAPID growth
- Planning/managing our urban future – inclusive, participatory, adaptive.
Regional context

- PICs are increasingly aware of the need to address serious urban development concerns
  - High urban growth rates in all Melanesian countries;
  - Extreme urban population densities in many Micronesian countries;
  - Urban sprawl in some Polynesian countries;
  - Few countries identify urban management and planning as a priority national development concern.
Topical urban discussions

- Population growth
- Youth unemployment
- Squatter settlement expansion
- Land sales
- Safety/crime
- Pollution and traffic
- Community health
- Service delivery (social services, water, electricity and sanitation).
Urban – a new identity?

- Drivers of national economy;
- Concentration of services
- Strong urban-rural linkages
- Gateway to nations
- Diverse communities
3 questions to think about

• How do we manage cities and towns in Pacific atolls and islands?
• What are the best approaches to managing urban development in the Pacific?
• What value can regional cooperation add to managing urbanisation?
Pacific Urban Agenda

• Developed through regional consultations to help provide a framework and sense of what urban planning priorities should be;
Pacific Urban Agenda

- Drafted 2003 (PUA) and reviewed 2007 (PUA 2) at two regional workshops convened by CLGF, PIFS, ESCAP and UN-Habitat;
- Endorsed by ESCAP Commission in 2004 and the Forum Leaders in 2005
- Included as a priority in the Pacific Plan in 2005.
- PUA2 endorsed by Forum Leaders at Tonga meeting in 2007.
PUA (II) 2007

- Institutional framework
- Urban environment
- Access to serviced shelter
- Urban quality of life

To see the outcomes of this meeting refer to:

www.unescap/epoc.org or www.forumsec.org.fj
Regional Action Framework for PUA

• To improve the quality of life for people who live or work in urban areas, especially the poor, through better planning and management of urban development and urbanisation.
PUA III

- Resolution 66/7 request UNESCAP, in cooperation with other relevant UN agencies to continue to support Pacific members and associate members in implementing the Pacific Urban Agenda and Regional Action Framework in collaboration with regional and development partners.
Regional Agencies Cooperation

‘Pacific Urban Coalition’

- Commonwealth Local Government Forum, Pacific Office;
- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT);
- ESCAP
- Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat;
- Secretariat of the Pacific Community;
- And...UNISDR, UNICEF, EU with interest from New Zealand Aid Programme, AusAID, ADB
Partners continued

- Pacific Capital Cities Forum
- Pacific Islands Planners Association
- Pacific Islands Land Professionals Association
- Pacific Youth Strategy (2011-2015)
- Universities

- How we are strengthening coordination and collaboration?
Recent activities

- Implementation of urban policy
- Establishment of dedicated urbanisation offices
- National Urban Dialogues
- Urban Management Plans
- Scoping studies of impact of urbanisation on children, complexities of climate change
- Resilient cities – are you ready?
- Settlement Upgrading
Country Activities

- **PNG – Office of Urbanisation**
  - National and City Urban Sector Profiles
  - Launch of National Urbanisation Policy (June 2010)
  - Safer Cities Programme
- **Solomon Islands – HCC & Ministry of HA**
  - HCC Institutional Strengthening
  - Housing/Settlement research
  - Urban sector profiling
  - HCC city visioning exercise
  - Rapid Employment Programme (WB)
Country Activities

• Samoa – Planning Urban Management Agency
  - Research traditional-modern governance/Village Governance Strategy
  - Vaitele (Greater Apia Area) Good Governance Project
  - Vulnerability Assessment for Apia

• Fiji – Ministry of LGUDH&E
  - Drafting Low Cost Social Housing Policy
  - National and City Urban Sector profiling
Country activities

• Palau and RMI – urban planning dialogue with focus on DRR and solid waste
• Tuvalu – discussions on urban management plan for Funafuti
Country activities

- Vanuatu – National Urban Dialogue 2009, preparation of zoning and development control documents for Port Vila and Luganville
- Port Vila Urban Development Project (preparatory phase ADB)
- Vulnerability Adaptation and assessment for Port Vila
Country activities

- Kiribati – Sustainable Towns Project (NZAID)
- Tonga – Sustainable Urban and Environmental Planning (EU)
- Market Improvement programme (UNIFEM)
- Cities and Climate Change Initiative (UN-HABITAT)
Priority areas for managing urbanisation – where can action make a difference?

- Economic growth?
- Housing?
- Environmental management?
- Delivery of services?
What next?

- National recognition of the issue? (advocacy and political commitment)
- Local action? Regional action?
- Increasing support and interest from development partners?
- Better alignment?
2011 – The third Pacific Urban Agenda workshop

- How far have we come in identifying and applying practical solutions to various challenges?
- How much more (or less) do we know about our towns, cities, growth centres?
- How can a workshop be of most use/relevance?
THANK YOU

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