

# SOPAC



Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission

# Presentation Outline

## Overview

Vision and mandate  
Member countries  
Vital statistics  
Strategic directions

## Regional Context:

- Regional development issues

## Technical Interventions

- Programmes
- Goals and activities



# SOPAC Overview

Intergovernmental Organisation

Established 1972

21 members

[16 Island States; 3 Territories; Australia and New Zealand]

Member of Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP)

Regional centre

[technical expertise, capacity & support]



# Vision

**Natural resources, principally non-living resources, developed in a sustainable manner, and resilience of Pacific peoples strengthened.**



# Mandate

- Contribute to sustainable development
  - Reduce poverty
  - Enhance resilience

## Through:

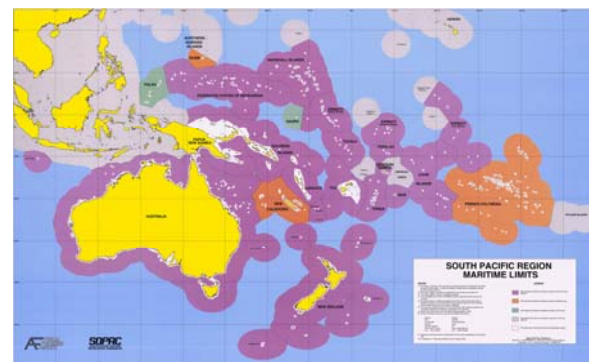
- Applied environmental geosciences
- Appropriate technologies
- Knowledge management
- Technical/policy advice
- Human resources development
- Advocacy of Pacific issues



# Member Countries

## MEMBER COUNTRIES

- Cook Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Fiji Islands
- Guam
- Kiribati
- Marshall Islands
- Nauru
- Niue
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu
- New Zealand
- Australia



## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- American Samoa
- French Polynesia
- New Caledonia
- Tokelau



# OUR VITAL STATISTICS

EEZ [excluding Papua New Guinea ]	38.5 million km <sup>2</sup> [35 million km <sup>2</sup> ]
Land [excluding Papua New Guinea ]	550 000 km <sup>2</sup> [93 500km <sup>2</sup> ]
7 500 Islands	Volcanic Islands Coral Atolls
500 Islands [excluding Papua New Guinea ]	6.9 million people [2.5 million people]
Ocean : Land [excluding Papua New Guinea ]	70 : 1 374 : 1



# Regional Development Issues



## Pacific Issues:

- Unique fragile environments
- Distinct and diverse cultures
- Limited natural resources
- Low economic diversification
- Geographic extremes
- Frequent natural disasters
- Rapid Demographic transition

# Programmes

- Ocean and Islands
- Community Lifelines
- Community Risk



# Ocean and Islands

## Goal

Improved technical knowledge of ocean and island ecosystems for the sustainable management of natural resources

## Components

- Resource Use Solutions
- Monitoring Physical and Chemical Change in Ecosystems
- Natural Resources Governance



# Ocean and Islands

## Activities:

- **Field surveys for coastal erosion solutions**
- **Maritime boundaries definition**
- **Acquisition of oceanographic data**
- **National policy advice for ocean management**
- **Engineering studies**
- **Marine Aggregates**



# Community Lifelines

## Goal

Improved community access to energy, water and sanitation, and information and communication technologies

## Components

- Resources assessment, development and management
- Asset management
- Community lifelines governance and advocacy



# Community Lifelines

## Activities:

- **Technical advice and assistance**
- **Provision of appropriate, cost effective technologies**
- **Regional support for remote sensing and GIS applications**
- **Assist development of policies, guidelines, strategies and plans for Lifelines resources**



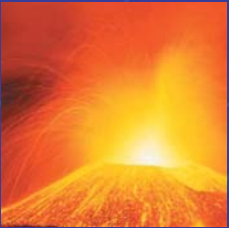
# Community Risk

## Goal

To improve disaster risk management practices to build safer and more resilient communities

## Components:

- Strengthening resilience to disasters
- Mitigating the effects of hazards
- Mainstreaming disaster risk management



# Community Risk

## Activities:

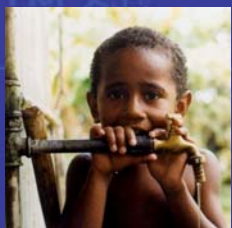
- **Development & implementation of DRM National Action Plans**
- **Coordinate disaster risk management training & capacity building**
  - **Reviews of national DRM arrangements**
  - **Emergency management training**
  - **Development of policies to support DRM**
- **Provide technical expertise to identify disaster risk reduction options**
  - **Hazard mapping**
  - **Risk analysis**
  - **Risk sensitive development policy options**
- **Advocate for the widespread use of relevant technical tools and processes to enhance development decision-making**
  - **E.g. Comprehensive Hazard and Risk Management (CHARM) tool**



# Remote Sensing, GIS and SOPAC



- Resource assessment – minerals, water, trees, etc
- Image backdrops – biggest use
- Mapping – catchments, boundaries, infrastructure, hazards
- Analysis of spatial and temporal change
- Shallow water bathymetry
- Radar imagery – flood events
- A centre for acquisition, post processing, new applications



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