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The Pacific Regional Federation for Resilience Professionals: a model for resilience and sustainable energy ecosystem services

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Abstract:

The Pacific Regional Federation for Resilience (PRFR) is an initiative by the European Union Pacific Technical, Vocational Educational and Training in Sustainable Energy (SE) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) project (EU PacTVET) to address the barriers whilst at the same time providing a sustainable model to contextualize the linkages between CCA and DRR. The PRFR presents a trans-boundary “one-stop-shop” approach to development and accreditation of qualifications, quality assurance of training delivery, professionalization of the resilience industry and certification of resilience practitioners. The PRFR is a conceptual structure supporting the objectives of the EU PacTVET project, the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, global, regional and national policy frameworks and Pacific island national development plans for economic growth and sustainable development. As a resilient model it has the capacity to foster sustainability beyond the life of the EU PacTVET project.

This regional framework and aspiration is achieved while respecting national and local differences without negating international standards of membership-based communities in developing professional protocols for “resilience” (CCA, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and ecosystem services) and sustainable energy professionals. The PRFRP benefits the entire community of the Pacific islands by maintaining formal regionally accredited vocational courses on resilience and sustainable energy covering thematically together more than ten strands: from tourism and health to biogas and agriculture. This wide coverage ensures a full cyclical economically viable framework to sustainable ecosystem services in the region, hence enhancing implementation of projects such as Ridge-to-Reef (R2R).

The PRFRP comes in light of the call by Pacific leaders for a regional approach to governance of Pacific-wide concerns. This is echoed through the general Framework for Pacific Regionalism as well as the more focused Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific.