INTERNATIONAL POSITION UNDP SAMOA / CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISOR

UNDP Samoa is seeking a Climate Change Advisor who will work under the joint guidance and supervision of the UNDP Environment and Energy Practice Leader based in the UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok and the UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative in Samoa. Key responsibilities of the incumbent include development of a UN joint programme for the establishment and management of a Climate Change Centre, and providing policy, technical and knowledge management support.

Deadline: 8th September 2008
Apply to: Mr. Deodat Maharaj (deodat.maharaj@undp.org).

I. Position Information

Job Code Title: Climate Change Advisor
Pre-classified Grade: L-4
Supervisor: Environment and Sustainable Development Regional Practice Leader; in-country supervision by UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative
Type/Duration: 200-series/One year with possibility of extension

II. Organizational Context

The Pacific Island Countries are already experiencing the effects of climate change, and represent some of the most vulnerable communities in the world. Pacific Island Countries, according to the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), are facing extreme risks to their survival as nations. Many islands are not more than a few meters above sea level. As wave actions are exponentially linked to sea level, an increase of half a metre in sea level would completely inundate these island states, putting at risk the survival of their human populations.

Climate change is also expected to increase the intensity of tropical cyclones. While the evidence is not as clear in this case, the pattern of tropical storms seen in the last few years is cause for deep concern. Prior to 1985 for example, the Cook Islands were considered to be out of the main cyclone belt and could expect a serious cyclone approximately every 20 years. This has changed. Most notably, there were five cyclones within one month in Feb/March 2005, of which 3 were classified Category 5 as they passed through Cook Islands’ waters. While these recent cyclones caused damage equal to 10% of the government’s annual budget, destroyed 75% of homes on the island of Pukapuka, and emotional distress, no lives were lost due to activation of
warning systems and preparedness by the general public.
In 2004, the island of Niue was hit by Cyclone Heta, with the ocean rising over the 30 meter high cliffs, causing 2 deaths, and making 20% of the population homeless. All told Heta caused economic damages equivalent to 200 years of exports. The country’s only museum lost 90% of its collection.
The king tides that have struck Tuvalu and Kiribati in recent years are further dramatic examples of how climate change will affect Pacific communities. Wells and agriculture were poisoned by sea water, house foundations undermined and graves exposed are just some of impacts that have been observed in the region. These are dramatic events and pose significant risk to peace and security in the Pacific, as the people may have to abandon their traditional lands, homes, and possibly their nations.
Climate change has had several other related impacts. Vector borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever are increasing their range upland in Papua New Guinea, and the incidence of dengue fever was especially high this year in the Pacific in general. A World Bank study on climate change and health found that a dengue epidemic in Fiji in 1998 cost the country around US$ 3 to 6 million. The World Bank also estimated that the economic costs of a dengue epidemic in Kiribati would be beyond the coping capacity of the country.
Climate change is also going to have an impact on economic activities in the region. The 1997-98 El Nino event saw a significant westward shift of major tuna stocks, making some of our economies and dinner tables suffer. This temporary warming of the western Pacific during ENSO is a harbinger of things to come, should the seas permanently rise in surface temperature. The impact of deteriorating coral reefs, the nurseries for certain fish stocks, are being severely damaged by warming waters, coral bleaching, and ocean acidification. We fear that there will be a major decline in the fish stocks as a result. We also have to consider the overall issue of sovereignty of our current Exclusive Economic Zones under climate change scenarios, the right to fish in those waters and our ability to patrol and control them.
Climate change, climate variability, and sea-level rise are therefore not just environmental concerns, but also economic, social, and political issues for Pacific Island countries, and strike the very heart of their existence. The impacts, and in particular the related economic and social shocks, pose serious political and national financial management issues for Pacific Island countries. Climate change, climate variability, and sea-level rise adversely affect GDP, balance of payments, budget deficits, foreign debt, unemployment, and living standards.
Therefore, climate change is undermining the very basis for the existence of 12 independent Pacific Island countries, as well as 7 Pacific Island Territories. Climate change is an overarching risk, and all of its impacts are and will be detrimental. Although many of the impacts are
known and understood, there is still much more knowledge that is necessary. Pacific communities will need to be well briefed on these impacts and empowered with the capacity to plan for mitigation and adaptation. Whereas Pacific Governments will establish overall climate change policies, it is the communities that will have to agree to and implement appropriate measures.

As is evident from the above extracts from the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum SIDS Group during the Security Council's Open Debate on Energy, Security and Climate in April 2007, climate change and associated climate risk represent a daunting challenge to Small Pacific Island Developing States in particular.

In addition, small Pacific Island Governments are faced with the task of addressing many development priorities across a wide range of portfolios simultaneously with limited personnel and financial resources. In spite of this several Pacific Island Countries and development partners have and are making concerted efforts to formulate integrated approaches to addressing climate related and other vulnerabilities posed by hazards across the region by aligning them with national and regional development priorities. Success in this approach has been varied and in spite of regional and national frameworks and plans some Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are not in a position to: respond rapidly to climate change challenges; develop and adjust strategic plans; formulate and implement programmes and projects; nor to have continuous and substantive dialogue on policy responses and good practice on adaptation solutions amongst the PICs and beyond. This situation has constrained the ability of PIC Governments to access funding resources for climate change activities (including access to GEF and climate adaptation funds). In addition, support from UN agencies to address this situation has been fragmented and remote.

Building on the momentum gained from efforts already made in the region and upon the emphasis placed on climate change in the Pacific Forum Communiqué and statements made at the General Assembly and Security Council by Pacific Island Countries, and reflecting the Secretary-General's priorities, and with the full support of the Government of Samoa, the UN/UNDP in the Pacific are working to establish an UN Inter-Agency Climate Change Centre for the Pacific to be based in Samoa. This Centre will be the first UN Centre of its kind focusing solely on the issue climate change in one of the most vulnerable regions in the World. The Centre will also provide support to existing and new initiatives to adopt integrated and sustainable human development oriented strategies to address climate change mitigation, adaptation to climate risks and other hazards. As its contribution towards UN reform, the Government of Samoa has provided land and other facilities for an Inter Agency Climate Change Resource Centre to further a “one UN” approach towards climate change, a subject of critical importance for the very survival of Pacific Island
Countries.
The Centre will support regional and national climate change initiatives by coordinating and upscaling support from UN agencies to PICs and Pacific regional organizations such as PIFS, SPC, SPREP, SOPAC, FFA and USP. In doing so, the Centre will liaise closely with other development partners such as AusAID, NZAID, EU, JICA, USAID, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, WWF, IFRC, Conservation International, Seacology and Greenpeace. The Centre will assist the 3 UN teams in the Pacific to coordinate and synergize their work on climate change and sustainable development, and provide support to countries where there are “gaps” the UN can fill. It will assist in accessing global knowledge and expertise to further bolster the response to climate change challenges and also assist in accessing new global financial mechanisms such as the recently established Adaptation Fund. In the context of the UN reform process and the “One UN” concept, the Centre will help coordinate the efforts of UN Agencies in the Pacific on climate change. It will serve as a repository of expertise and knowledge for the UN system and its partners, and a “one-stop-shop” to pool together all the climate change expertise, knowledge, initiatives and resources of UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, FAO, WHO, WMO and other UN agencies working in this field and will seek to draw in other organizations such as UNFCCC, UNIDO, IMO and WIPO to the Pacific. The Centre will support UN regional and country programming, and provide policy advice on climate change and sustainable development, bringing together the UN to work on one subject matter of critical importance in the Pacific. The Centre’s operations will take as its frame of reference the Pacific Plan; the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC), the Pacific Islands Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, the Pacific Islands Energy Policy (PIEP), the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Papua New Guinea and the sub-regional UNDAF for the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Currently, UNDP is supporting a number of regional and national GEF funded climate change projects in the Pacific. These include enabling activities (focused on gathering and presenting scientific, economic and social information and data on CC) and mitigation and adaptation projects. For most ongoing projects, there has been close collaboration between UNDP country offices and the regional organizations such as SPREP/SOPAC. In addition, UN agencies are developing joint UN programmes, including joint GEF projects on climate change.
The Climate Change Advisor will be based in Samoa and will work under the joint guidance and supervision of the UNDP Environment and Energy Practice Leader based in the UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok (RCB) and the UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative in Samoa. RCB was established in April 2004 to boost aid efficiency and effectiveness.
by providing policy advice and technical back stopping to more than 25
countries in the region. The Climate Change Advisor will also coordinate
activities with UNDP’s Pacific Centre based in Suva, Fiji.

4 III. Functions / Key Results Expected

Summary of Key Functions:
The Climate Change Advisor will focus on the following areas of work:
A. Operationalizing the Inter-Agency Climate Change Centre:
Development of a UN joint programme for the establishment and management
of Climate Change Centre including, inter alia:
- Identification of the various types of climate change initiatives going on in the region by the UN and other agencies
- Development of a UN Climate Change Strategy based on an assessment of the gaps the UN is uniquely placed to address based on its comparative advantage in collaboration with regional organizations and development partners
- Identification of new opportunities – including follow-up to the Bali Climate Change Conference, Adaptation Fund, GEF Pacific Alliance for Sustainability, etc. – that could be effectively addressed by the Centre
- Assessment of demand at the national and regional levels for various climate change related policy advice, technical services and knowledge management products that can be provided effectively and efficiently by the UN
- Assessment of the interest and capacity of other agencies in the Centre through close liaison and collaboration with the Chair and Secretariat for the Outcome Group on Sustainable Environmental Management (consisting of representatives from both the Fiji and Samoa-based UN Multi-Country Teams) tasked to develop UN joint programming initiatives for the environment and climate change for 14 PICs, as well as with the UN Country Team for Papua New Guinea through the UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative.
- Design of a process for building ownership and validation of the Centre amongst the UN, governments, institutions and partners in the Pacific, including through stakeholder consultations.
- Establishing and maintaining partnerships with Pacific regional and international organizations such as PIFS, SPC, SPREP, SOPAC, FFA and USP as well as with development partners such as AusAID, NZAID, EU, JICA, USAID, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, WWF, IFRC, Conservation International, Seacology and Greenpeace.
- Establishing and maintaining partnerships with UN agencies and donors for increased alignment and integration of climate resilience into UNDAFs and UNDAF Implementation Plans.
- Consultations with key partners on the composition, functions,
structure and management of the Centre which could include the following:

- Developing a UN Climate Change Strategy (using as an example the UNDP Climate Change Strategy)
- Identifying any research needs on climate change
- Acting as a repository and disseminator of UN knowledge on climate change
- Building Pacific capacity on climate change and sustainable development
- Recommending governance and management arrangements for the Centre

Identifying and mobilizing additional human resources immediately required by the Centre, including an Administrative Officer, a Communications and Partnerships Officer, and an Eco-Architect.

Undertaking resource mobilization for the Centre, including operational and capital costs beyond Year 1, such as land and other facilities offered by the Government of Samoa for the Centre and for a UN House.

Any other duties

B. Policy, Technical and Knowledge Management Support:

Providing climate change-related policy, technical and knowledge management advice to PICs

As a first priority, support the preparation of a background paper and film on behalf of UN for the Pacific Leaders’ Forum Meeting in Niue in August 2008. The paper should review the progress of the post-Kyoto framework and future negotiations/positions from the Pacific’s point of view, a review of the status of the Pacific Framework for Climate Change and its Implementation Plan progress review of the Pacific Climate Change Framework and Action Plan and recommendations on the way forward including reviving the roundtable mechanism, and advice on leveraging UN and other resources for climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives in the coming years.

Sourcing of expertise and backstopping of economic climate impact assessments in vulnerable sectors of a country’s economy

Providing technical assistance for assessing the impact of Climate Change on development, including the attainment of the MDGs, and for integrating Climate Change adaptation and mitigation measures in MDG-based development plans and sustainable development strategies.

Screening of climate change risks imposed on UNDP activities in Pacific countries, including risk screening of UN programming documents (e.g. Common Country Assessment (CCA), United Nations Development Assistant Framework (UNDAF)).

Screening of UN project portfolios for climate risks and opportunities, with an aim to reduce risks of maladaptation

Assisting countries to progress GPAS initiatives related to climate change where UN agencies are the Implementing Agency
Assisting countries with the formulation and implementation of adaptation and mitigation project proposals to be funded by the Adaptation Fund (AF), GEF, and bilateral funds

Design, preparation, and submission of project proposals

Supporting identification and liaison with potential and actual co-financing agencies and institutions

Identification and sourcing of technical expertise and support including preparation of Terms of Reference, identifying and evaluating experts, reviewing policy papers and reports

Monitoring and trouble shooting during the implementation phase of climate adaptation projects

Any other duties

4.1 IV. Impact of Results

The key results have an impact on the institutionalization of the Inter Agency Resource Centre for Climate Change and the overall effectiveness and efficiency of UN climate change activities in the Pacific, including decision-making, short, medium and long-term planning, improved business results and client services. They also impact on increasing Governments’, partners, and civil society and communities’ awareness and knowledge of climate risks to development, and on the ability for climate proofing of development plans and sectoral policies. The position will facilitate investments and financing to address climate change and sustainable development in vulnerable Pacific countries and support forward-looking strategic management changing environmental conditions. Accurate analysis, production and presentation of strategic information will strengthen decision-making and promote timely positioning and readjustment of UNDP programme management.

5 V. Competencies and Critical Success Factors

Corporate Competencies:

Demonstrates integrity by modeling the UN’s values and ethical standards

Promotes the vision, mission, and strategic goals of UNDP

Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability
Treats all people fairly without favoritism

Functional Competencies:

5.1.1 Knowledge Management and Learning
- Knowledge of Climate Change projections, impacts and adaptation options in Asia and the Pacific
- Promotes knowledge management in UNDP and a learning environment in the office through leadership and personal example
- In-depth practical knowledge of planning and inter-disciplinary development issues.
- Actively works towards continuing personal learning and development in one or more Practice Areas, acts on learning plan and applies newly acquired skills
- Seeks and applies knowledge, information and best practices from within and outside of UNDP.

Development and Operational Effectiveness
- Demonstrated experience in project development, implementation and monitoring as well as partnership development and resource mobilization
- Ability to lead strategic planning, results-based management and reporting.
- Excellent knowledge of Results Management Guide and Toolkit
- Ability to lead formulation, implementation, monitoring of development programmes and projects.
- Ability to formulate and monitor budgets, monitor contributions and investments, monitor transactions, conduct financial analysis, reporting and cost-recovery.
- Ability to lead business processes re-engineering, implementation of new systems (business side), and affect staff behavioral/ attitudinal change

Management and Leadership
- Builds strong relationships with clients, focuses on impact and result for the client and responds positively to feedback
- Consistently approaches work with energy and a positive, constructive attitude
- Demonstrates openness to change and ability to manage complexities
- Leads teams effectively and shows mentoring as well as conflict resolution skills
- Remains calm, in control and good humored even under pressure.
- Demonstrates strong oral and written communication skills
VI. Recruitment Qualifications

Education:
Master’s Degree or equivalent in related discipline, i.e. climate sciences, environmental sciences, earth sciences, natural resource economics, or related social sciences.

Experience:
At least 7 years of relevant work experience in developing countries working on issues related to climate risk, vulnerability reduction and capacity development. Demonstrated experience in project development, implementation and monitoring Strong background in partnership building and resource mobilization will be an essential requirement. Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages, experience in handling of web based management systems. Experience working in the Asia and Pacific region.

Language Requirements:
Fluency in English required, second UN language will be an advantage.

VII. Signatures- Job Description Certification

Incumbent (if applicable)

Name
Signature Date