

Pacific Plan and Sustainable Development

Attaining the triple bottom line
(easier said than done)

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How are we ensuring sustainable Pacific Communities?

- We are not!! Everywhere there is change...
- Sustainable? What? Efforts towards Sustainability but long way to go!
- Pacific communities ? In villages and settlements? Erosion of values and relationships; Disintegration of communities/ Creation of new forms...

Pacific Plan a good thing - a Leaders' vision where none existed...

- 4 pillar
 - economic growth*
 - Sustainable Development
 - Good Governance*
 - Security
 - *(1.adb and comsec report FIS)

Pacific Plan has re-invigorated debate-
development: regional, national and local
levels

- Polarised positions:
- Forum Islands Secretariat-Australia and NZ (Australian Aid: Promoting Growth and Stability mentions Pacific Plan thrice (p30, 39 (skills training. 56 governance).
- Pacific Islands NGOs –opposed.
- Academics-divided
- Business -divided

Sustainable Development

- Social/cultural, economic, environmental, political, spiritual.
- Sustainable Development –rhetoric/reality
- Different realities in each island/archipelagic state –huge differences
- Regional integration not natural progression or common interests
- Small states in a globalising world –driven by global giants –TNCs/powerful states and IFIs and multilaterals

PP:Sustainable Development

- Reduced Poverty/National SD strategy plans
- Improved natural Resource and environmental management
- Improved health
- Improved education and training
- Improved gender equality
- Enhanced involvement of youth
- Increased participation and achievement in sports
- Recognised and protected cultural values, identities and traditional knowledge

Poverty Reduction

According to Implementation strategy: assessment of other regional initiatives' contribution to achieving this strategic objective.

- 20% decrease in poverty gap ratio (incidence x depth of poverty) between 2006 and 2015 –how?
- 20% decrease in poverty headcount ratio (% of population below the national poverty line) –by 2015, disaggregated into urban and rural (many of the initiatives in the PP should contribute)-how?

(indicators –HIES and both are indicators of MDGs)

❖ However, local and national level initiatives –vital.

Sustainable Poverty Reduction- processes and outcomes –not charity but enhancing capabilities

- Reduce inequality- redistributive role of state and provision of services- health, education, utilities (water)/ infrastructure.
- Food Security/secure livelihoods/meaningful employment (Recognise strengths)
- Enhance capabilities of disadvantaged –girls/women and youth-add those who are impaired.
- Access to education/training/opportunities
- Expand labour markets –investment climate/short term-long term migration-
- Reinforce/Create safety nets/social protection
- Wider Participation in decision making
- Savings/thrift/household support/networks.
- Fighting HIV/Aids; Malaria; TB; Life Style diseases; Avian flu.

MDGs and Trends

- Pacific and Sub-Saharan Africa not on track to achieve MDGs: Reducing by half those in extreme poverty and hunger (issues of definition/measure here, eg Vanuatu)
- Melanesian (esp PNG) and Micronesian countries have poverty levels that range from 30 to 50% of the population; intensity increasing.
- Growing inequality –Gini Coefficient higher than many Asian countries (ADB, 2004)-Social consequences.
- PP/ PICTA/PACER/EPA/WTO- Loss of tariff revenues/ Regressive taxation. Development versus trade
- Working towards SD-participatory/holistic- Big challenge