Dear members,

Volunteerism has been a key driver of the global environmental movement, mobilizing communities all over the world to help them to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse environmental situations. When well facilitated, volunteerism and volunteer action can increase both communities’ and individuals’ resilience to adverse impacts of climate change, disasters and changing environmental conditions. And indeed, the added value and contributions volunteerism brings to climate change, environmental and disaster management is explicitly recognized in number of United Nations (UN) General Assembly resolutions, Hyogo Framework for Action and by number of platforms in the preparations for the post-2015 development agenda.

Responding to growing requests from UN Member States and UN entities, United Nations Volunteers (UNV) is currently developing a global programme on community resilience for environment and disaster risk reduction, aligned with UNV’s Strategic Framework for 2014-2017. While UNV has already made sustainable contributions to community resilience for local climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts as well as disaster response globally, in the Pacific region our efforts have been limited. As part of our new global programme, UNV is now exploring ways how to more efficiently enable volunteerism for community resilience in the region, and to showcase the impact it can create.

While the spirit of volunteerism and community engagement is an intimate and deeply rooted part of Pacific societies, the region is still majorly lacking for example of structured volunteer programmes, knowledge and studies on the value of volunteerism and the impact it makes, statistics on volunteerism (who volunteers, where, for what, how often), policies enabling development of volunteerism, recognition of volunteerism as a strategic tool to engage and to mobilize citizens for environmental, climate change and disaster response, and support to civil society organizations to develop their volunteer management capacities.
We would therefore like to request your help in finding already existing knowledge on the above mentioned issues. **Can you share or direct us towards studies, evaluations, reports, surveys etc. on volunteerism in the Pacific.** Although we are particularly interested in information relating to environment, climate change and disasters, we would be more than happy to hear about studies with no specific thematic emphasis on the above mentioned issues. Or maybe you have something you wish to share in relation to some of the following:

- Successful volunteer programmes for disaster management, climate change and environment
- Good practices in integrating volunteerism into the design and implementation of community-based environmental programmes
- (National) policy documents relating to volunteerism, disaster management, climate change and environment
- Good examples and practices of public sector support for volunteering infrastructure

Furthermore, we welcome your thoughts on the following:

1. **How would you capture specific data on volunteerism in the documentation of community-based environmental, climate change and disaster programmes?**
2. **What kind of standards for measuring volunteer contributions should be used?**
3. **What are the key issues to acknowledge while promoting culturally appropriate volunteer responses in the Pacific?**
4. **What hinders/prevents/inhibits development of volunteer structures and responses in the Pacific?**

Many thanks in advance – we greatly appreciate all your inputs towards developing a structured, needs-driven and vibrant field of volunteerism for environmentally sustainable future in the Pacific!

*Further reading: UNV issues brief | UNV special feature on World Environmental Day 2014*

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**Responses were received, with thanks, from**

1. **Jone Tuipelehaki**, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji
2. **Ulla Gronlund**, United Nations Volunteers, UNDP Fiji MCO, Suva, Fiji
4. **Wendy Flannery**, Climate Frontlines – Friends of the Earth Brisbane, Australia
5. **Rex Thomas**, Vanuatu Earth Care Association, Luganville, Santo Island, Vanuatu
7. **Neil Maharaj**, Fiji Council of Social Services National Volunteer Centre, Suva, Fiji
8. **Daniel Taufaqa**, Austraining International, Suva, Fiji

*Further contributions are welcome!*

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**Summary of Responses**

**Comparative Experiences**

**Related Resources**

**Responses in Full**
Summary of Responses

With plans to develop a structured, needs-driven and vibrant field of volunteerism for an environmentally sustainable future in the Pacific, Ulla Gronlund from United Nations Volunteers sought members’ feedback on capturing data, measuring contribution, key issues and challenges of volunteerism in the Pacific.

A member started the discussion disagreeing on the statement that the region lacks structured volunteer programmes. He argued, there have been numerous amounts of campaigns and activities around climate change and disaster programmes within each of the countries successfully engaging volunteers of all ages and these volunteer activities are structured in various ways that suit the dynamics of the volunteers. A structure that may work for one or organisation may not necessarily work for another and each organisation and network has adopted different standards that work for them and this should not be seen as an overall lack of structure in volunteer programs.

The Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS) National Volunteer Centre mentions the existence of a national structure under the 1998 National Disaster Management Act that is not acknowledged by many. Since the Council was established in 1957, all national nongovernment organisations (NGOs) reported and received their funding via FCOSS as mandated under the Act. It all changed since the country’s political turmoil where donor agencies no longer went through FCOSS but directly to the NGOs changing the reporting channel from NGOs directly to donors and not to FCOSS. With this, other issues followed such as collecting data on volunteerism was difficult, activities are replicated as there aren’t any consolidation of efforts, resources and reports. The Council recommends the acknowledgement of the 1998 Act while waiting for its review as suggested by many.

On the first question on how to capture specific date on volunteerism, members shared different methods according to what suit them best. The Japan International Cooperation Agency’s (JICA) Volunteer Program gets their volunteers to do final presentation based on what they have done, learned and recommend before they leave – the presentation captures the specific data the agency needs for their volunteer program.

Austraining International Fiji Office does an Organisational Needs Assessment to identify key areas of need for environmental, climate change and disaster programs and how best to identify volunteers required according to the needs. These data are captured through routine reports submitted during volunteer assignments, tracking against assignment objectives, encouraging data on beneficiaries that are trained and supported by our volunteer program, and the skills set delivered to strengthen and work with in-country capacity and resources. A member suggested to begin with a baseline study on existing volunteer groups and networks in the region that will help one understand the opportunities and risks that exist for volunteers.

On the second question, members shared the different standards their organisations used to measure volunteer contributions which many times depend on the type of activities that volunteers undertake. JICA Volunteer Program uses an evaluation template where the program hears from volunteers and vice versa. These templates, similar to other programmes, measure against objectives, coverage of volunteer work in the country or with regional counterparts.

A member strongly feels the need to put an economic value to the efforts of volunteers regardless of what standard of measure each volunteer programme uses. Their contribution to the economy makes a difference yet is not recognized in the National Gross Domestic Product (GDP). According to FCOSS, Fiji alone has about 1200 schools and approximately 900 are managed by volunteers. Volunteer programmes have assisted schools, built houses, conserved ...
habitats, counselled people, all of which aren’t translated to a dollar value and acknowledged in the national GDP.

In the third question, members discussed key issues of promoting culturally appropriate volunteer responses in the Pacific shared were issues such as whether volunteers have the capacity to provide the support, the amount of time and resources they can commit to the cause, and what they can learn from these experiences.

For Austraining International, it is understanding the different work expectations and values by both parties and finding the bridging messages for a harmonized approach to development; as what works in one culture or society does not necessarily work in another. Acknowledging local knowledge is just as important as the technical knowledge brought in by volunteers, at the same time appreciating volunteers who are willing to strengthen local communities with limited resources and support.

Finally, on factors that hinder or inhibit development of volunteer structures and responses in the Pacific – members share their experience with lack of funds to implement activities, volunteers losing interest whenever they don’t learn anything new, volunteers outgrowing their volunteer groups and networks and moving on to other things, while some volunteer in some case leaders cannot move on to greener pastures and hand over to younger volunteers causing a ‘bottle-neck’ effect in the group.

JICA shares their experience on the lack of awareness on volunteerism and its contribution to the country. Often the lack of capacity for the organisation as with WWF Pacific to take in volunteers in large numbers due to growing interests from the public. Staff have their own objectives to meet and to juggle that with the volunteer programme schedules and objectives is challenging. Other factors members shared are miscommunication or misinterpretation of development messages, lack of resources and monetary support to implement ideas and initiatives, and changes to priority areas or the national agenda.

As discussions concluded, members believe that despite the many challenges and the lack of awareness on volunteerism, volunteers have an inner drive and motivation that goes far beyond just doing the work. They are convicted in the principles, norms and values they believe in and volunteerism is a chance to give back to communities, to people and to organisations. Others see it as their belief in the value of serving others, it is rooted in the culture and customs of the Pacific people and reinforced by their Christian belief. However, members are seeing these values fade and acknowledge the need to sustain these values in our Pacific volunteers.

**Comparative Experiences**

**Fiji**

**There is No Perfect Structure, Suva** *(from Jone Tuiipelehaki, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji)*

Various organisations structure their volunteer programmes according to what suits them best. There is no perfect structure, as a structure that may work for one organisation may not necessarily work for another. Not having a standard structure for each volunteer organisation should not be seen as an overall lack of structured volunteer programmes in the Pacific.

**Vanuatu**
A Service to Others, Santo Island  (from Rex Thomas, Vanuatu Earth Care Association, Luganville, Santo Island, Vanuatu)
Volunteers have an inner drive and motivation that goes beyond just experiencing volunteerism. They say they are convicted in the principles, norms and values they believe in and volunteerism is seen as a chance to give back to certain organisations and to communities. 'Service to others' is rooted in the culture and customs of the Pacific people and reinforced by their Christian belief. However, these values are fading due to globalization.

Related Resources

Recommended Documentation

Natural Disaster Management Act 1998 (from Neil Maharaj, Fiji Council of Social Services National Volunteer Centre, Suva, Fiji)
Government of Fiji
Available at: www.ifrc.org/Docs/idrl/1050EN.pdf (PDF; 297KB)
An act to make better provisions for the government and relevant agencies to perform functions and duties in relation to natural disaster management.

Recommended Organizations and Programmes

From Jone Tuipelehaki, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji

WWF South Pacific, Fiji
4 Ma'afu Street, Suva, Fiji; T: (+679) 3315533; E: ktabunakawai@wwfpacific.org - Ms. Kesaia Tabunakawai (Representative); W: www.wwfpacific.org;fj;
WWF South Pacific strongly advocates and practices the ecosystem based management approaches to its conservation work, ensuring issues are not addressed in isolation but as a bigger array of interactions.

350.org Pacific, Fiji & Australia
W: www.350pacific.org; E: pacific@350.org;
350 Pacific is a youth led grassroots network working across 15 Pacific Island nations to highlight the vulnerabilities of our island countries to climate change while showcasing our strength and resilience as a people.

Greenpeace Australia and Pacific
1st Floor, Old Town Hall, Victoria Parade, Suva, Fiji; E: support.au@greenpeace.org; T: (+679) 3312 861 / 3312 784;
Volunteers in Australia and the Pacific are an essential part of Greenpeace's success. Volunteers spread the word online and in local communities, get hands-on experience in the campaigns, and help raise vital funds for a greener, peaceful future.

Red Cross Society, Fiji
22 Gorrie Street, Suva; E: redcross@connect.com.fj; W: www.redcross.com.fj; T: (679) 3314 133;
Volunteers have been the backbone of Red Cross since 1863. They are central to all activities, contributing to the success of their National Societies and assisting millions of vulnerable people.

From Unaisi Malani-Tagicakibau, Sustainable Livelihoods Office, WWF Pacific, Suva, Fiji
Conservation International, Pacific Island Regional
Contact: Siniva Tuuau-Enosa, P.O. Box 2035, Apia Samoa; T: (+685) 21593; F: (+685 28570); W: www.conservation.org;
Conservation International is 900 people in 30+ countries helping to build a healthier, more prosperous and more productive planet, for everyone.

Wildlife Conservation Society, Fiji
11 Ma'afu Street, Suva Fiji; T: (+679) 3315174; E: infofiji@wcs.org; W: www.wcsfiji.com;
The Society envisions a connected, resilient, ecoscapes that provide habitat for abundant and diverse species while sustaining natural resources, livelihoods and culture for Fijian communities.

From Neil Maharaj, Fiji Council of Social Services National Volunteer Centre, Suva, Fiji

National Disaster Management Office, Fiji
P. O. BOX 2219 / 2452, Government Buildings, Suva; T: (+679) 3313400; W: www.ndmo.gov.fj;
The NDMO facilitates, coordinates and manages national disaster risk reduction and disaster management activities to enhance the provisions of a safer and secure Fiji.

Fiji Council of Social Services, Fiji
256 Waimanu Road, Suva, Fiji; T: (+679) 331 2649;
FCOSS is a civil society organisation that strengthens people and communities in Fiji through advocacy and training. It promotes and develops networking and collaboration within the community sector.

Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, Fiji
Regional House, 1 Knolly Street, Suva; T: (+679) 3313 400; F: (+679) 3313 035; W: www.ndmo.gov.fj / www.fiji.gov.fj;
The Ministry is charged by government to implement its rural development policies, programmes and activities through its district and divisional administration using its formalised rural consultative machinery.

Ministry of Education, National Heritage, Culture and Arts
Marela House, Thurston Street, Suva; T: (+679) 3314477; F: (+679) 3314757; W: www.education.gov.fj;
The Ministry of Education is responsible for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of educational legislations, policies and programmes in Fiji.

Recommended Communities and Networks

From Jone Tuiipelehaki, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji

Wantok Moana, University of the South Pacific, Fiji
Contact: www.facebook.com/groups/wantokmoana;
Wantok Moana, is a name given to the School of Marine Studies Students Association, assisting students academically and their welfare needs – securing employment and attachment for our members through their networks.

Econesian Society, University of the South Pacific, Fiji
W: www.econesiansociety.org; E: info@econesiansociety.org;
It is made up of students and friends from all over the Pacific. Based at the University of the South Pacific, members are solely driven by their passion for the environment.
Responses in Full

Jone Tuipelehaki, Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development, University of the South Pacific, Fiji

Dear colleagues,

First and foremost I would like to refute Ulla’s claims that “the region is still majorly lacking for example of structured volunteer programmes.” With the exception only on the studies on the value of volunteerism.

There have been numerous amounts of campaigns and activities around climate change and disaster programmes within each of the countries that have successfully engaged volunteers of all ages. Organisations and youth networks such as WWF South Pacific, 350.org, Wantok Moana, the Econesian Society, Pacific Emerging Environment Leaders Network, Emerging Leaders Forum, Greenpeace, Red Cross and many others have undertaken activities by successfully engaging volunteers.

The organisations and networks that I have mentioned above does not even include the volunteer activities organised by different government departments, Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies, corporates and other environmental organisations located throughout the region.

The activities undertaken by these volunteers are structured in various ways that suit the dynamics of the volunteers themselves, the type of activities to be undertaken, availability of resources and so forth. I have volunteered myself for many activities under various organisations and I have found that there is no perfect way of structuring volunteer programmes. A structure that may work for one organisation may not necessarily work for another. Each organisation and network has adopted different standards that work for them and this should not be seen as an overall lack of structured volunteer programmes.

Governments, Corporates, Nongovernment Organisations and Civil Society Organisations all value the importance of volunteerism and the impact it has in their own communities and to the nation building agenda.

How would you capture specific data volunteerism in the documentation of community-based environmental, climate change and disaster programmes?
Undertake a baseline study on the different volunteer groups and networks that exist in the region per country so you can gain a better understanding of what opportunities and risks that exist for volunteers.

*What kind of standards for measuring volunteer contributions should be used?*

This depends on the type of activities that you want your volunteers to undertake. Some volunteer groups require its members to be within a certain age group, others require their members to at least hold a bachelor's degree in a certain field of study while some volunteer groups are open to all those that are interested in volunteering their time and effort for specific activities.

*What are the key issues to acknowledge while promoting culturally appropriate volunteer response in the Pacific?*

Are the volunteers themselves at a place where they can provide the support? How much of their time must they commit to the cause? Do they have the resources to contribute to a cause? How and what will the volunteers learn from these experiences?

*What hinders/prevents/inhibits development of volunteer structures and responses in the Pacific?*

Lack of funds to implement activities. Some volunteer groups need money to cover for operational costs such as transport, meals and working materials. Some volunteers are willing to do the work but don’t have the funds to cover for the costs associated with undertaking an activity. For example, a person may not be able to ‘put in’ or contribute $10 to pay for fuel or to cover for transport costs.

Volunteers lose interest because they don't learn anything new. Some members just outgrow volunteer groups and networks. Bottleneck effect. Some volunteer leaders just can't seem to move on to greener pastures and have the younger volunteers take over.

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**Ulla Gronlund, United Nations Volunteers, Suva, Fiji**

Dear Jone and colleagues,

Thank you for your comments and examples of good volunteer based programmes in the Pacific. Indeed, you do hit the nail in the head regarding successful civil society organizations: volunteers are their backbone, who keep the wheels turning.

We are currently in the process of doing a baseline study on volunteerism in Fiji in a hope of collecting data on the role and contribution of volunteerism, and I hope many of the VIOs mentioned underneath will partake in the forthcoming surveys. However, I suspect some of them might have already done surveys/studies etc. on the contributions and impact their volunteer programmes create, and would love to hear of the evidence that has already been gathered.

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**Sarojini Lal, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Suva, Fiji**

Dear colleagues,
We at the Japan International Cooperation Agency Volunteer Program capture specific data in all sectors and field through our volunteers who are attached to organisations, particularly during their final presentation.

In terms of standards for measuring volunteer contributions, an evaluation template for all volunteers should be used. Hearing from volunteers as well as the host is very important. Key issues to acknowledge while promoting culturally appropriate volunteer responses in the Pacific, for us it depends case by case.

Finally, some of the hindrances to volunteer structure development and responses in the Pacific include the unawareness of volunteerism, the lack of resources and the output of volunteerism. Thank you.

**Wendy Flannery, Climate Frontlines – Friends of the Earth Brisbane, Australia**

Dear members,

A key factor in how volunteering works in the Pacific would surely be the cultural understandings of ‘family’ and how this operates in practice, especially (but not exclusively) in more traditional rural social contexts.

Thank you.

**Rex Thomas, Vanuatu Earth Care Association, Luganville, Santo Island, Vanuatu**

Dear colleagues,

I have been volunteering myself for a local nongovernment organisation in Vanuatu, Vanuatu Earth Care Association-VECA for over 14 years since its inception in 2000. I volunteer because there is an inner feeling that drives and motivates me to do so. The conviction in the principles, norms and values for doing it for an organization or society all drawls down to how we were brought up in a society.

We in the Pacific, we live for others; we do things for others, because the values and norms rooted in our culture and customs that nursed and shaped us. These fundamental values in the society have been re-enforced by the Christian principles of love and care for others.

Volunteerism is the socio-capital investment in the society. It is all about valuing and being for each other. This norm is eroding in some societies due to globalization.

To maintain and sustain the traditional values is to revisit the culture and customs with traditional chiefs in the respective society. It is a great challenge when money becomes an agent force.

**Unaisi Malani-Tagicakibau, Sustainable Livelihoods Office, WWF Pacific, Suva, Fiji**

Dear colleagues,

The WWF Pacific Volunteer Program has a growing group of more than 80 volunteers led by an Executive Committee. It is open to everyone looking to work with conservation professionals on a large variety of projects, from field work, opinion polls to fundraising and gaining insight into how
large nongovernment organisations operate. Our volunteers are mostly university students and graduates who are either employed or unemployed.

The Executive Committee consists of 8 volunteers i.e. 1 President, 2 Vice Presidents and 5 Coordinators looking after Finance, Communications, Events and Conservation Initiatives. The Committee holds an Annual Meeting for the Programme to decide on their volunteer work for the year ahead. Currently, they are hard at work on helping Gospel Primary School students build a vegetable garden. The role of the Executive Committee is also to maintain a record of each volunteer that joins the Programme as this becomes an asset when WWF Pacific and partner organisations are looking for interns and new placements within the organization. In terms of funding, the Programme raise their own by holding fundraising events such as a Charity Dinners etc. Whatever funds are raised are accounted for within the Finance system with the organization.

Volunteers also assist WWF Pacific staff members to facilitate workshop and trainings. Partner organisations such as Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme tap into our Volunteer Programme when they need extra hands in any of their activities.

We value the contribution of our Volunteer Program. Each of our volunteers that have accomplished 240 hours of volunteer work under the Programme is rewarded with a Certificate of Recognition by WWF Pacific which is also an added value to their Resume.

In terms of the challenges, I would say is our capacity to cater the large number of volunteers we currently have and the growing interests from the public. We the staff have our own objectives to meet, often different from that of the Programme and its challenging to keep up as we juggle schedules.

However there is currently plans underway to get a permanent position that will take on the task of managing the Volunteer Scheme. Although this is all being done locally, WWF International also allows or funds for an international volunteer to be based at WWF Pacific for 6 months with our Communications department.

Neil Maharaj, Fiji Council of Social Services National Volunteer Centre, Suva, Fiji

Dear colleagues,

Capturing specific data on volunteerism in the documentation of community-based programs is one thing that needs to be worked on. The Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS) sits on the National Disaster Management Council/Office (NDMC/NDMO) as a nongovernment organisation.

National Disaster Management Act 1998 gives mandate to FCOSS to be the representative in NDMC and lead nongovernment organisation (NGO) to coordinate the Disaster work. The challenge is this, when FCOSS was formed in 1957, all national NGOs were members of FCOSS; grants were distributed from FCOSS to national NGOs. It all changed in early 2000s due to political climate when funding no longer came through FCOSS but went directly to the national NGOs who then didn’t feel obliged to report to FCOSS on work. However, NGOs who don’t have donor support remained under FCOSS.

Therefore there has been a lot of difficulty in gathering data of the work done in disaster risk and climate change, amount of funding each gets, number of people assisted in each location. FCOSS has arms in the districts known as District Council of Social Services [DCOSS] i.e. community youth
groups, women networks, faith-based organisations, sporting groups, schools, etc. We at FCOSS have been delegated as per the 1998 act the task to collect all these data but we don't have the support financially and from NDMO and donors to coordinate this. Under the Act we are responsible for this task but the structure remains but it is beyond our capacity to get data from NGOs that have moved away from under us. These NGOs no longer report to us but to the respective donors that fund their activities. Neither is this report forwarded to NDMO.

The way I see around this challenge is to acknowledge the structure under the National Disaster Management Act 1998. In terms of data, that way the research and gathering data activities are centralized and not replicated. The case today is that everyone is doing their own thing which is great but no consolidations of efforts, resources and report. And to refer to your third question this is what hinders development of volunteer structures and responses in the Pacific. A Cluster System was recently introduced by an international organisation aligning all national NGOs under each cluster i.e. education, health, logistics, water & hygiene, transport, housing, etc. Unfortunately this was done without the consultation of FCOSS although we do fall under one or two of those clusters. The National Disaster Management Act is still in existing and this is not being acknowledged.

In our recent meeting with the Ministry of Maritime, Rural and Disaster Management, they pleaded to the group of NGOs to acknowledge the 1998 Act. Many have advised the review of the Act which is still yet to be done but for the past 14 years this is what that needs to be acknowledged.

What kind of standards for measuring volunteer contributions should be used?
Volunteer contributions come in many forms – the number of hours they spend doing the work or the dollar value of those hours, the knowledge and experience they share, the physical effort they put into each task for example the effort a field volunteer puts into distributing sacks of fertilizers to poor farmers during disasters is different to a volunteer assigned to develop policies. It would be ideal to measure each of these different forms and place an economic value to it. Although our Fiji volunteers aren't paid, their contribution to the economy and to our national GDP needs to be recognized. Volunteer activities and many NGO assistance provided to the schools and communities, building of houses, conserving habitats, counselling of people to improve their lives – all these need to be translated to a dollar value and acknowledged in the country's GDP. Fiji alone has more than 1500 NGOs and about 1200 schools approximately 900 of which are managed by volunteers. Ministry of Education measures the amount of money provided to each school and not the contribution of management and school committees who are volunteers.

What are the key issues to acknowledge while promoting culturally appropriate volunteer responses in the Pacific?
Volunteerism has been around for as long as one can remember. Faith based organisations were established by the efforts of volunteers. Years ago volunteerism was about the experience before you actually start your career, a way of finding out what you want to do in life, for others it gave them a personal satisfaction that along the way they touched a life, they left a community better than they found it. Five to ten years later, all this has changed to ‘how much am I getting paid for this’. The concept of Volunteerism has changed dramatically.

Hope this is helpful.

Daniel Taufaga, Austraining International, Suva, Fiji Islands.

Based on our experience at Austraining International:
Capturing specific data on volunteerism in the documentation of community-based environmental, climate change and disaster programmes:
Work with community based organisations, networks and affiliates in identifying key areas of need for environmental, climate change and disaster programs and how best to identify volunteers according to the needs required. This can be done through an Organisational Needs Assessment. Data captured are included through routine reports submitted during volunteer assignments, tracking against assignment objectives, encouraging data on beneficiaries that are trained and supported by our volunteer program, and the skills set delivered to strengthen and work with in-country capacity and resources.

Standards for measuring volunteer contributions:
Reporting templates that are measured against objectives, coverage of volunteer work in the country, or with regional counterparts.

Key issues to acknowledge while promoting culturally appropriate volunteer responses in the Pacific:
In the case of our program, understanding the different work expectations and values by both parties and finding the bridging messages for a harmonized approach to development. What works in one culture or society does not necessarily work in another. Acknowledging local knowledge is just as important as the technical knowledge by our volunteers. On the other hand, appreciation for volunteers willing to strengthen our local communities with limited resources and support is something we are also reminded off.

Hindrances to the development of volunteer structures and responses in the Pacific:
Miscommunication or misinterpretation of development messages, lack of resources and monetary support to be able to implement ideas and initiatives, changes to priority areas or the national agenda, not enough recognition of volunteerism and their contribution to national/regional growth and development.

Thank you and kind regards.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this query!

If you have further information to share on this topic, please send it to Solution Exchange for the Climate Change and Development Community in the Pacific at ccd-pc@solutionexchange-un.net with the subject heading "Re: [ccd-pc-se] QUERY: Volunteers Contribution in Pacific Climate Change, Environmental & Disaster Management. Additional Reply."

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