

PRiMO

The Pacific Risk Management `Ohana (PRiMO) 2011 Partners Meeting held in Pago Pago, American Samoa brought together 130 participants from 65 agencies across 7 Pacific Islands to discuss “Recovery on the Path to Resilience”. The meeting focused on the September 2009 tsunami in American Samoa as the topic of discussion and collaboration sessions that created a common vision of what disaster recovery could look like in the Pacific Islands and resulted in actionable steps to strengthen coordination at all levels to build community resilience. Over the next several months, the agencies will collaborate on the small group discussion topics and focus on actions items and work plans that will enhance resilience in America Samoa and the Pacific. This event featured workshops provided by the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center (NDPTC) and the Coastal Services Center.

For more information on PRiMO please visit our website:

www.primohui.org



About PRiMO

PRiMO (Pacific Risk Management `Ohana) is a consortium of local, national, and regional agencies, institutions, and organizations committed to enhancing the resilience of Pacific communities to hazards. Through PRiMO our partners are working together to increase collaboration on development, delivery, and application of risk management information, products, and services for Pacific communities while cultivating an appreciation for the unique physical and cultural characteristics of the region.

PRiMO is based on a mutual recognition of the benefits of collective action. Activities are characterized by shared leadership and shared resources. PRiMO partnerships have improved product development and service delivery, strengthened the regional capacity to manage hazard risks, and resulted in significant cost savings by minimizing duplication of effort and improving efficiency. PRiMO began in 2003 as an effort to simply explore opportunities to enhance communication and collaboration among the `ohana, or family, of local, national, and regional

agencies, institutions, and organizations involved in risk management in the Pacific. PRiMO has since transformed into a true collaborative effort governed by a coordinating council of Navigators. These key representatives from the region provide leadership, resources, and policy guidance to PRiMO as well as seek institutional support for PRiMO from within their respective organizations.

PRiMO is comprised of working groups (huis) that bridge the information gap between service providers, decision makers, and other stakeholders. Current focus areas include; Risk Reduction and Post Disaster Evaluation, Communications, Education and Outreach, Indigenous Knowledge and the Environment (IKE), Data Analysis and Decision Support Tools, Observations and Data Management, and Training.

History of PRiMO

In 2003, the first Federal Hazard Mitigation Partners in the Pacific Islands (FHMPPI) Roundtable I, was held in Honolulu, HI, March 11-12, 2003. This meeting brought federal risk management stakeholders together to explore opportunities to enhance partnerships. Due to the resounding success a second FHMPPI Roundtable was held again in Honolulu, HI on March 16-18, 2004. This meeting led to specific and concrete actions to sustain the emergence of comprehensive risk management for the region. These actions included:

- Creation of an organizational framework based hazard themes:
 - 1) Seismic, Volcanic, & Tsunami;
 - 2) Climate & Weather; and
 - 3) Human Induced Risks
- Creation of the huis (working groups)
- Identification of hui priority actions
- Activation of the Navigators Council to develop a regional action plan and provide policy guidance.
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From this framework the Pacific Risk Management 'Ohana (PRiMO) was born and in 2005 the first Annual Meeting was held in Kailua-Kona on March 15-17, 2005. This meeting confirmed the need for a more formal partnership in the region and set future priorities for the huis.

The second Annual Meeting was held in 2006 on Kaua'i on March 15-17, 2006. As a result of recent catastrophes such as the Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 2004 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005, PRiMO chose to focus their risk management initiatives on building resilience at the community level and huis identified opportunities to work more closely together to this end.

In 2007, the Annual Meeting was held in Kihei, Maui on March 14-16, at the Pacific Disaster Center. Over 50 participants shared ways to improve the development and delivery of risk-management information products and services in the Pacific.

The 2008 PRiMO Annual Meeting was back in Honolulu, held in March 11-14. The 2008 Annual Meeting provided an opportunity to renew commitment to PRiMO's mission: Building Partnerships for Resilient Communities in the Pacific. The 2008 meeting also brought a

significant increase in participation with the inclusion of representatives from other jurisdictions around the Pacific.

In 2009, PRiMO transitioned its Annual Meeting from every March to every other March. In the interim years PRiMO partners will be supporting more issue and outcome focused meetings in jurisdictions across the region.

The first of these interim meetings was held in Tumon, Guam on March 18-19, 2009. This focused meeting brought in many new members to discuss coastal inundation hazards and what information needs, gaps and actions were needed to create more resilient communities.

In 2010, PRiMO was back in Honolulu, held in March 16 to 19, 2010 and include a professional development workshop and introduced the NOAA Coastal Storms Program into the Pacific Region.

Symposium on Kona's Marine Ecosystem: Past, Present and Future



About the Symposium

The focus of this two-day symposium on September 15 and 16 is to provide a forum for scientists and managers to present and discuss historical and ongoing research on the Kona (West Hawaii) marine ecosystem.

Registration is free and the symposium is open to all who wish to attend. Registration will begin on May 1st and can be done online through our website. You will also be able to submit abstracts for oral presentations online starting May 1, 2011. Abstracts must be submitted online through the website by July 15, 2011 to be considered for oral presentations.

We have reserved a block of rooms at a special rate under "Kona IEA Symposium". Be sure to reserve your rooms early, as they are limited. These rooms will be available at this special rate until August 1, 2011.

Dates to Remember

May 1, 2011 – Registration and abstract submission begins

June 1, 2011 – Abstract submission deadline

July 1, 2011 – Notification e-mails about Abstract Acceptance
July 15, 2011 – Attendance confirmation from presenters
August 1, 2011 – King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel room reservations deadline

For more information about the symposium or the Kona IEA visit our website at http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/kona_iea/

About the Kona IEA Project

NOAA's Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center has begun a pilot Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) program for the Kona region of Hawaii. The purpose of an IEA is to perform a formal synthesis and quantitative analysis of information on relevant natural and socio-economic factors, specifically in relation to identified ecosystem management goals for a region. The Kona region was a natural choice for this pilot IEA project based on its dynamic ecology and the vast history of research done in this area. The Kona region contains a diverse group of unique species that have been the subject of many long-term studies. In addition, the Kona region has many potential management issues now and in the future. These include a growing aquaculture program, a large recreational dive community, and an active recreational fishery with an annual billfish tournament hosted in Kona.

The first stage of the Kona IEA program focuses on completing the first important steps of the IEA process. These include internal and external scoping processes to understand what is known about the system and to identify key management issues and potential data sources. Work on these initial steps has begun at the PIFSC, with a working group formed to identify issues of interest to the center around Kona. A major focus of the IEA however, is to form a collaborative effort between the NOAA PIFSC and managers of Federal, State and University institutions that conduct research in the Kona region. It is through this collaboration that we hope to identify common management issues of interest, as well as continue to identify important ecosystem drivers of the system. The desired result of this process is the ability to assess the Kona ecosystem, and to provide information on current and predicted states of ecosystem health under different scenarios.

Additionally, work on several initial scientific research projects has begun in 2010. These include the construction of two ecosystem models for the reef and coastal areas of Kona, the construction of socio-economic indicators for the Kona region, and a project using a circulation model to understand how eddies on the Kona coast may influence larval fish transport and settlement.

Another goal for 2011 is to finish the Kona IEA website and multiyear plan for the PIFSC IEA program. The aim of the website is to integrate data products generated from the Kona IEA project with existing data streams from IEA partners. The purpose of the multi-year plan is to detail the future direction of the program and identify our desired research projects and goals both for the Kona IEA project and overall PIFSC IEA program. Other highlights in 2011 include a ten-day oceanographic research cruise aboard the NOAA ship *Oscar Elton Sette* during July 2011, and a two-day research symposium to be held in Kailua-Kona during September 2011.

For additional information on the Kona IEA please contact either [Evan Howell](#) or [Jeffrey Polovina](#) at the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center.

Pacific Climate Information System (PaCIS) Implementation Plan and Steering Committee Meeting



The draft PaCIS Implementation Plan, developed in 2010, formed the basis for discussions that were held during a Steering Committee Meeting held on March 22-24, 2011 at the Hawaii Imin International Conference Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. This meeting brought together almost 50 individuals from institutions and programs working in the fields of climate observations, science, assessment, education, outreach, users, and services in the Pacific as well as selected individuals with expertise in similar regional climate science and service programs in other regions. Next steps include:

- Placing the meeting materials (agenda, participant list, presentations, etc.) on a regional website
- Developing a revised draft of the Implementation Plan and circulating it for internal review, external review, and eventual approval by the Steering Committee (SC).
- Drafting amended terms of reference that include the addition of Focus Area Coordination Teams (FACTs) and submitting them to the SC for review and approval.
- Developing materials for a website that include basic outreach materials as well as project and activities summaries; assessment summaries; and program summaries.
- Forming a working group to co-evolve an assessment framework and process that involves the FACTs and includes topical dialogs.
- Commencing work on Specific Actions including:

- Holding a State of the Pacific Climate ‘Forum’, starting with the formation of a working group to establish nature and scope of this activity.
- Cataloging and Synthesizing Rainfall and SLR/Inundation-related products and develop associated guidance materials.
- Creating new or improved products related to seasonal outlooks and/or decadal projections.

Following from above, efforts are underway to more formally establish these Focus Area Coordination Teams (FACTs):

- **Preserving Fresh Water Resources and Minimizing the Impacts of Drought** FACT: Work in this area is being carried in coordination with the Pacific RISA.
- **Fostering Community Resilience to the Impacts of Sea Level Rise (SLR), Inundation, Extreme Weather, and Community Resilience** FACT: Following an Initial gathering in the Fall of 2010 to share information among representatives of agencies, institutions, and organizations with projects and activities in this area, planning is underway among a group consisting of representatives from NCDC Regional Climate Services, NOS CO-OPS, Coastal Storms Program, CSC/PSC, and UH Sea Grant to coordinate activities in this area. One such activity tentatively identified is to bring together experts in the area of sea level rise and related processes, as well as providers of products and tools used to support decision making, to explore our current understanding and reach consensus on the best information and best practices with respect to the development and **application of sea level rise (SLR) scenarios in Hawaii and the Pacific Islands.**
- **Sustaining Marine and Terrestrial Ecosystems** FACT: Planning is underway among representatives from NCDC Regional Climate Services, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program and the DOI’s PICCC to coordinate activities in this area. Specifically, an email will go out next month inviting representatives of agencies, institutions, and organizations with projects and activities in this area to participate in an initial meeting/conference call on May 20 to share information.

More information can be found at: <http://noaclimatepacis.org/steering/>