Ocean Cities Knowledge Exchange:

Promoting Nature Based Solutions in Pacific Island Urban Settlements

July 3, 2018

Venue: USP Statham Campus, Suva, Fiji

Background
In recent decades, cities in the Pacific region have seen continuous and rapid urbanization, leading to large infrastructure and service delivery gaps.¹ These gaps are holding back growth and the opportunities to reduce poverty, are causing environmental degradation and inequality in the region, and must be addressed for cities to grow in an equitable and environmentally responsible manner. The global community has come together on commitments to development outcomes through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda and has recognized the significance of city-level actions in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In the Ocean Pathway launched at COP23, Fiji’s Presidency also emphasised the importance of action in coastal cities, towns and settlements for ocean health. These agreements and efforts emphasize the need for local solutions to address urban growth and environmental and equity concerns.

Building on this momentum, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) jointly with the Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (PACE) based at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji is convening a new partnership with Pacific island developing States to develop an integrated policy approach for ocean-focussed climate-responsive urban development adapted to island systems. This approach integrates nature-based solutions, coastal zone conservation and marine spatial planning in island settlements to promote urban resilience and protect ocean-based livelihoods. Drawing on knowledge and experiences from the Pacific region, this new initiative will develop a series of policy briefs on key themes for Pacific cities and an integrated ‘ocean cities policy guide’ to identify opportunities to bridge the gap between the built and natural environment. The initiative will facilitate South-South cooperation and knowledge sharing, and strengthen a regional voice of SIDS in a complex landscape of sustainable development agendas. With adequate regional cooperation and partnership, SIDS have the potential to pioneer a climate-smart ocean-centred approach for resilient urban development that can break the vicious cycle of interlinked challenges. The initiative will run from April to December 2018, building a foundation for future collaboration.

Event
The Knowledge Exchange will be held in Suva on July 3rd, 2018 as a side event to the 2018 Pacific Update Conference. There will be four 90-minute sessions (two in the morning, two in the afternoon)

¹ ESCAP, Empowering cities to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda: mobilizing municipal finance for sustainable infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region (Seventy-fourth session of the Commission, 2018)
with 20-25 participants from national and local governments, civil society, academia, the private sector and development partners.

The objectives of the event are three-fold:

1. Introduce ESCAP’s Ocean Cities initiative;
2. Discuss the needs and challenges for ocean-friendly urban planning and development in Pacific towns and cities;
3. Identify opportunities, solutions and innovations to respond to these challenges, as well as potential obstacles in applying these solutions across countries. Inputs will be consolidated and further developed into a regional policy guide to assist SIDS to adapt sustainable urban development to island systems.

Sessions
The first three interactive sessions are thematic and revolve around the topics of the three briefs being prepared by USP/PACE and ESCAP. The final session will be a brainstorming session for moving forward the Ocean Cities project and idea.

<p>| 8:50 – 9:00 | Welcome remarks (ESCAP) and introduction exercise / group energizer |
| 9:00 – 10:30 | Session 1: The Ocean and the City – Urban Challenges and Opportunities in Pacific SIDS |
| | Overview presentation |
| | • 5 mins: USP (based on brief 1) |
| | City presentation |
| | • 5 mins: CLGF (providing Pacific local government experience) |
| | Country presentation |
| | • 10 mins: one or two examples of country experience |
| | Follow up Q&amp;A to presenters |
| | • 10 mins |
| | Breakout group discussion (~6 people/group) |
| | • 45 mins |
| | • SWOT analysis |
| | General discussion and remarks |
| | • 15 mins: Breakout groups report back on discussion &amp; summary |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | Coffee break |
| 10:45 – 12:15 | Session 2: Nature-based Solutions to Urban Development |
| | Overview presentation |
| | • 5 mins: USP (based on brief 2) |
| | Expert presentation |
| | • 5 mins: IUCN (providing larger, more international experience) |
| | Country presentation |
| | • 10 mins: one or two examples of country experience |
| | Follow up Q&amp;A to presenters |
| | • 10 mins |
| | Breakout group discussion |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 – 13:15</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
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<td>13:15 – 14:45</td>
<td>Group energizer</td>
<td>Session 3: Community Action</td>
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<td>Overview presentation</td>
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<td>• 5 mins: USP (based on brief 3)</td>
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<td>Expert presentation</td>
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<td>• 5 mins: CSO network (providing larger, more international experience)</td>
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<td>Country presentation</td>
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<td>• 5 mins: one country example by gov representative</td>
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<td>• 5 mins: one country example by community network</td>
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<td>Follow up Q&amp;A to presenters</td>
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<td>15:45 – 15:00</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>15:00 – 16:30</td>
<td>Session 4: Interactive Gallery Walk</td>
<td>A Gallery Walk is a discussion technique that gets the participants out of</td>
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<td>their chairs and into a mode of active engagement on the points raised in</td>
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<td>the previous thematic presentations and small group work</td>
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<td>Discussion 1: Unpacking the guidance at the regional level – what</td>
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<td>opportunities exist and what mechanisms need to be in place for Pacific</td>
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<td>cities to drive action on oceans in the region?</td>
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<td>Discussion 2: What should the regional guidance prioritize? Where do we</td>
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<td>go from here? How to take Ocean Cities forward.</td>
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<td>16:30 – 16:45</td>
<td>Next Steps and Closing – ESCAP and USP</td>
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**Expected Outcome**
- Clear guidance on how to finalize the draft policy briefs
- Clear identification of next steps (possibly a policy guide for Ocean cities in the region)
- Established network of experts/practitioners called Friends of Ocean Cities