



Acronym: SOPAC
Full Name: South Pacific Applied Geosciences' Commission
Website: www.sopac.org
Established: 1972
Location: Fiji Islands

Areas of expertise: Services to promote sustainable development.

Main Partners and collaborations: Asian Development Bank (ADB), Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (APC), European Union.

Short Description:

The Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) is an intergovernmental, regional organisation with 21 member countries established in 1972 under the Economic and Social Division of the UN as a project called the Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in South Pacific Offshore Areas (CCOP/SOPAC), to promote offshore mineral and petroleum prospecting.

The secretariat became autonomous in 1984. While the initial focus of its work was on marine mapping and geosciences, recent years have seen a broadening of this scope to include hazard assessment and risk management, environmental vulnerability, oceanography, energy, water and sanitation and information and communication technologies.

Main activities:

The SOPAC's activities aim to provide assistance to its member countries in three key programme areas: Ocean and Islands Programme, Community Lifelines Programme and Community Risk Programme.

Ocean and Islands is an integrated programme focused on research, development and management of non-living resources in ocean and island systems addressing issues relating to seabed resources, energy, and maritime boundary delimitation and monitoring of ocean processes.

Community Lifelines is a diversified programme that strengthens national capacities in energy, water and sanitation, information and communications technologies.

Community Risk is a comprehensive programme aimed at reduction of community vulnerability through improved hazard assessment and risk management.

To effectively provide these support services, SOPAC maintains an information technology unit, provides publication and library services, and offers technical and field services for specific project work.

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Source: South Pacific Applied Geosciences' Commission