

Damien Sweeney, Principal Consultant

Overview of Expertise

Damien is a sustainable development generalist and experienced monitoring and evaluation practitioner, bringing together wide ranging skills and experience to design practical solutions to complex problems. Damien's interest is in developing monitoring frameworks that support evaluative thinking, learning and adaptation, as well as in evaluation capacity building that supports knowledge generation, sharing and adaptive management.

With over 15 years' experience working in local government, industry, education and consultancy, Damien has wide-ranging knowledge and experience in health, education, community economic development, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk management, resource management, vocational education, community and business engagement, and infrastructure, particularly across the Pacific region. He brings together his strong knowledge and experiences of behaviour change and monitoring and evaluation to develop robust project designs and M&E frameworks, and undertaking reviews and evaluations.

Damien is skilled in and training and facilitation, having designed and delivered customised training in project design, and monitoring and evaluation. His international development experience includes working for DFAT, MFAT, DFID, EU, SPC, SPREP, GIZ, and international NGOs.

Qualifications & Training

2011 Masters of International and Community Development, Deakin University.

2011 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, Swinburne University of Technology and NMIT.

1999 Bachelor of Applied Science (Environmental Management), James Cook University.

Project Experience

Design, monitoring and evaluation to support International development projects and decision-making process

- Technical Director M&E on the PNG Human Development Monitoring and Evaluation Services (HDMES), for DFAT (2019)
- M&E Specialist on the PNG Economic and Social Infrastructure Program (ESIP), for DFAT (2019)
- Whole of Aid Program Products Stocktake of aid program reporting products in Timor-Leste, for M&E House (2019)
- of DFAT investments in Timor-Leste as part of M&E House
- ANCP Program Logic and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework refresh, for DFAT (2019)
- ANCP Data Systems Validation review for DFAT (2018)
- M&E Specialist on the Skills for Employment Program in Nepal, for DFID (2018)

- M&E Specialist for the mid-term review of the Timor-Leste Roads for Development Support Program for DFAT (2018)
- M&E Specialist for the mid-term review of the Tuvalu Fisheries Support Program for MFAT (2018)
- M&E Specialist for the review of Australian Aid health-sector investments in Timor-Leste (2017)
- Evaluation Advisor for the design of Stage 3 of the DFAT-funded Australia Pacific Technical College (APTC) (2017)
- Quality review of M&E frameworks for DFAT investments in Timor-Leste as part of M&E House (2017)
- Development of theory of change and M&E framework for a nutrition-focused collaborative impact program in Timor-Leste (2017)
- Development of Project Design Documentation (PDD) for three Adapting to Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (ACSE) funding proposals for the Solomon Islands Government (solar hybrid energy installation in remote school & solar power training) and Republic of Marshall Islands (water harvesting improvement in remote schools) (2016)
- Final evaluation of the €11.4 million EU-funded GCCA: PSIS project, for SPC & EU (2016)
- Development of theory of change and monitoring and evaluation learning framework for Oxfam Australia Trading (2016)
- Provision of M&E support to 14 countries in the GEF & Australian Aid funded Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) program (2015)
- Impact evaluation of training in proposal writing in Pacific Smaller Island States for SPC (2014-215)
- Project evaluations for World Vision Solomon Islands (WVSI) for the Makira and South Malaita Community Economic Development project (2016), the Makira Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation project (2015), and Temotu Disaster Risk Reduction/Climate Change Adaptation and Livelihoods project (2014)
- Research Assessment of the Livelihoods Cluster during the 2014 Flood Response in the Solomon Islands, for UNDP and World Vision Solomon Islands (2015)
- Evaluation of the Strengthening Disaster Resilience in Solomon Islands project, for World Vision Solomon Islands (2015)

Program design and proposal preparation through capacity building

- Developing customised training resources and delivered training on proposal preparation using the logical framework approach to over 300 government and NGO participants across nine countries (18 workshops) as part of the GCCA: PSIS project (2013-2015)
- Developing customised training resources and delivering training on project proposal preparation for the Kyoto Protocol Adaptation Fund (2014)

Positions held

- 2012–2016 Pacific Research and Evaluation Associates (Director, Principal Consultant): worked across Australia and Pacific region developing and implementing M&E frameworks, and delivering training and facilitation in project design and M&E.
- 2008–2012 National Centre for Sustainability, Swinburne University of Technology (Program Manager): project managing and delivering research and evidence building initiatives to business, industry and government clients.
- 2006–2008 Sustainability Officer - Townsville City Council.
- 2006–2008 Project Officer – International Ocean Institute, Australia.
- 2004–2005 Project Officer – Seafood Services Australia.
- 2003–2004 Consultant – DASCEM.
- 2000–2002 Project Officer - Townsville City Council.

Memberships

Australasian Evaluation Society.