INTRA-ACP GCCA+ PROGRAMME An Initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States funded by the European Development Fund

PACIFIC ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE BUILDING

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Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

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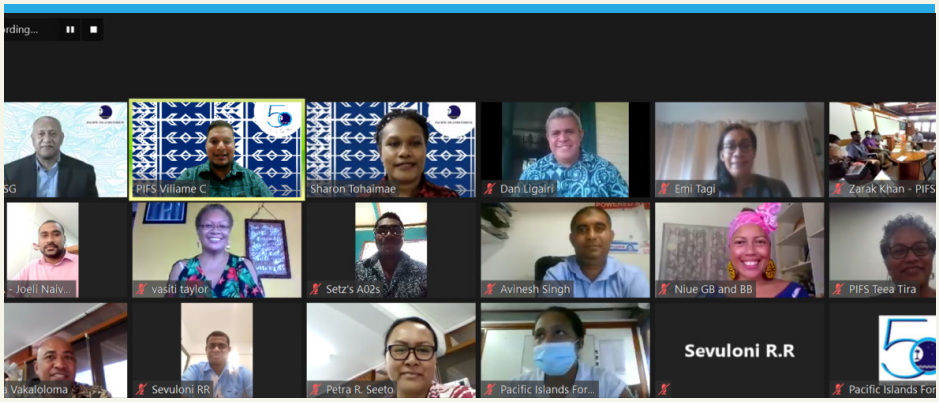
August 2022 Volume: 5

Newsletter



Pacific Youth-Led Small Grant Initiatives Awarded to support resilience actions

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) through the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) awarded a range of youth-led initiatives that build climate change resilience involving 11 groups across the region in March 2022 and supported by the Government of Australia. The recipients, chosen from 62 applicants for small grant support came from Fiji, Niue, the Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

The youth-led efforts and activities contributed to the effective implementation of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) covering a wide range of sectors including preserving traditional agricultural practices, strengthening mental health resilience including through art, addressing water security, waste management and sustainable agro forestry.

PIFS Deputy Secretary General, Dr. Filimon Manoni, congratulated the awardees and encouraged them to maintain their commitment to assist and build the resilience of their communities. "I'm really encouraged to note the interest from you to positively contribute to building resilience efforts within your communities," he said. "We received over 60 proposals that served to remind us of the cross-cutting impact of climate change and disaster risk, and that resilience cannot be constrained within one sector or one approach."

Ms. Emi Tagi, Acting Director, Pacific Climate Change Section, DFAT, reaffirmed the Australian Government's commitment to climate action recognising the threat that climate change poses to the Pacific. She said building resilience into every sector is most effective including gender and social inclusion and the important role youth plays in it. Ms. Tagi added that "emerging young leaders in our communities play a critical role as the region faces the challenges of climate change together."

PRP Youth Hub Chair, Mr. Sevuloni Rokomatu, acknowledged the ongoing support from the Australian Government and the PIFS in facilitating such process in engaging our young people.

Read full press release:

https://www.forumsec.org/2022/03/21/release-pacific-youth-led-small-grant-initiatives-on-climate-change-and-resilience-launched/

Selected participants from the Pacific benefit from virtual short courses on climate change and resilience

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) through the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) convened capacity building virtual short courses for more than 200 climate change and resilience practitioners, including youth and private sector in February and March 2022. The objective of the courses was to enhance understanding of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) and introduce tools to assist stakeholders to access Grants through proposal writing, activity reporting and project management. Support of this initiative was provided by the Australian Government through the PRP and European Union (EU) through PACRES and Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP).

Ms Lavenia Naivalu acknowledged the great opportunity the programme provided which helped her learn as a beginner and as a woman representative from a very remote maritime community in Fiji. She expressed her gratitude for being selected to participate.

PIFS Director for Programmes and Initiatives, Mr. Zarak Khan, emphasised that the need for capacity building should not be underestimated as it is a key enabler to the continual improvement of approaches and efforts, and strengthening the quality of actions and its impacts.

Mr. Gabor Sasvari, EU Programme Manager for Climate Change and Human Mobility, welcomed the diversity of participants benefitting from the short training.

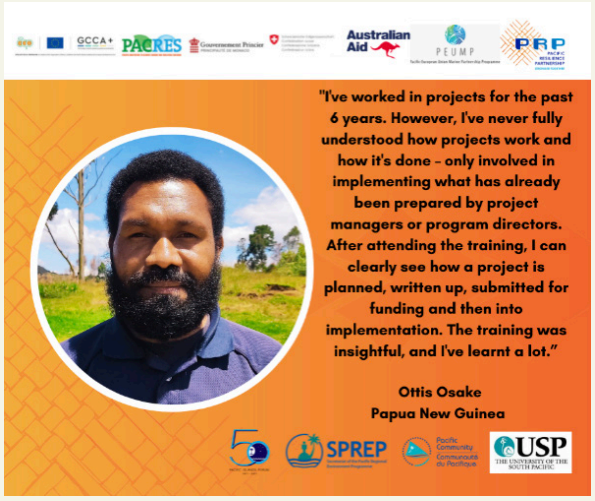
“Looking at the list of the participants I’m really happy to see how diverse it is, ranging from the government to NGO’s, private sectors and stakeholders,” he said, noting the EU support to the region through the PACRES and PEUMP projects captures the broad spectrum of resilience in the region. The capacity building work is one part of enabling increased engagement within these areas.

Ms. Emi Tagi, Acting Director, Pacific Climate Change Section, DFAT, reinforced the Government of Australia’s support to the region. “As a member of the Pacific Resilience Partnership, the Australian Government is proud to support implementation of the FRDP. Australia is a long term, committed partner in building Pacific climate change and disaster resilience and is pleased to see such a large volume of diverse stakeholders engaging with the FRDP to build resilience in their respective fields.”

Link to press release:

https://www.forumsec.org/2022/02/25/pif-usp-launch-joint-courses-for-climate-change-and-resilience/

Testimonies from some of the participants:



Launch of three new Technical Working Group on Human Mobility (TWG-HM) research briefs: Land Tenure, Planned Relocation, Women and Disability in the context of climate change through the PRP TWG on Human Mobility

Caption: *Youth participants, facilitators with representatives from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and a representative from the Australian High Commissioner in Suva.*

The Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) Technical Working Group on Human Mobility (TWG-HM) launched the first three editions, under the Research Brief Series in February 2022, supported by the Government of Switzerland through PACRES.

The research briefs are knowledge products. The series aims to be TWG-HM's contribution to the evidence-based research on good practices that can support Pacific Governments and practitioners implement policy and programmes related to human mobility linked to the effects of climate change and disasters in the Pacific.

The research briefs on Land Tenure, Planned Relocation and Women and Disability in the context of climate change and disaster induced human mobility seeks to provide critical information to fill knowledge gaps, which can support policy recommendations and development. The areas of the research briefs were identified, selected and peer reviewed by the PRP TWG-HM, through outcomes from webinars, online surveys and consultations with stakeholders.

Caption: *Kim Allen (far left) with the church and school leaders during the handover ceremony of the two 5500-liter water tanks funded by DFAT through the Pacific Resilience Partnership and Pacific Island Forum Secretariat.*

Testimonies from some of the Youth-Led Small Grant Recipients

"This project on revival of traditional agricultural practices in remote communities is important for our climate resilience, particularly involving high school students to record traditional agricultural practices as a means of adaptation." - Sabrina Taman from Santo Sunset Environment Network in Vanuatu, who shared her experience dealing with the impacts of climate change on food gardens, homes, and livelihoods."

"I thank PIFS through the PRP for believing in young people across the Pacific region and creating the platform allowing young people to be part of the climate change solution by implementing community youth-driven projects," - Kim Allen, Grant Recipient and Member of the PIF SG's Young Climate Leaders Alliance, who successfully implemented Tubetube Island Water Project. The project benefited over 700 people including primary school students on Tubetube Island."

"Youth leadership in building community resilience is important and opportunities like the PRP Grant are crucial in advancing youth agenda, empowering youth leadership and providing young people the platform to become positive instigators of change to help build stronger and healthier communities." - Avikesh Jai Kumar, Bula Pulse Youth Network, who successfully implemented 'You Matter – Strengthening mental health resilience through empowering youth leadership Project."

Private Sector: Mapping of Fiji's private sector activities related to climate change and resilience

Fiji completed its mapping of private sector activities related to climate change and resilience conducted in 2021 with support of the PIFS PACRES Project. Assisted by the Government of Fiji, through the Ministry of Economy and the Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation (FCEF), the mapping focused on identifying barriers constraining business capacity to manage climate risks and development of strategies to strengthen the capacity of Fiji businesses to manage climate risks. A stakeholder consultation was held on Friday 25 February 2022 to review the findings of the private sector mapping of climate change and resilience activities. Representatives from the private sector, including FCEF members, Fiji Development Bank as the Direct Access Entity and the Ministry of Economy, participated in the national consultation. Key stakeholders had the opportunity to hear from the consultant on the status of the private sector in pursuing climate change and resilience initiatives and their needs. The outcomes of the mapping will help FCEF and key stakeholders to prepare for the next phase of support.

PIFS participation at the Connecting Business initiative annual meeting in Geneva

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) through the PACRES Project teamed up with the Connecting Business initiative (CBi) and the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) early 2022 to set-up the Solomon Islands Business Resilience Council (SIBRC). PIFS provides technical support for the set-up as recommended by the Solomon Islands private sector mapping completed in 2020. Fiji and Vanuatu through their Business Resilience Councils have offered to support by sharing the lessons learnt with Solomon Islands. PIFS' role was focused on providing advice about regional initiatives and priorities related to climate change and resilience and coordinating with partners to help progress the establishment of the SIBRC.

CBi recognised PIFS' important role and specific support for the private sector under the PACRES Project Key Result Area (KRA) 6 as a result of this collaboration. PIFS was invited to participate at the CBi Annual Meeting held between 9 and 13 May 2022 at the International Conference Centre in Geneva. This is a key event where all CBi Member Networks, the CBi Secretariat, its partners and private sector stakeholders gather from around the world to share expertise and collaborate on best practices. CBi Member Networks who were present for the annual meeting included Cote d'Ivoire (formerly Ivory Coast), Fiji, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Vietnam.

Grant Writing Training a Success in Solomon Islands

A two-day training on project proposal and grant writing supported by PACRES was held in Honiara, Solomon Islands 21 – 22 April 2022. Organised in collaboration with the Pacific Climate Change Collaboration Influencing and Learning (PACCCIL) Project and the Australia Pacific Climate Alumni Network (APCAN), the training aimed to improve communication skills. This activity also included capacity building for the Solomon Islands Climate Action Network (SICAN) and other local stakeholders for developing proposals in order to secure funding to support community resilience and sustainable development priorities.

Mr. Lionel Dau, Aid Officer, Anglican Church of Melanesia, intimated that he learned new skills and knowledge about proposal writing and how to seek funding opportunities. He added that as a Community Development and Social Worker, the training taught him about different donor criteria and focus areas as well as understanding and developing professional relationships with other partners and projects.

The two-day training drew 39 participants, 19 women and 13 men, including three people with disabilities and a sign language interpreter.

Link to press release: https://www.usp.ac.fj/pace-sd/projects/intra-acp-gcca-pacres/pacres-articles-and-stories/grant-writing-training-a-success-in-solomon-islands-usp/

PACRES Student Research

Ms. Jyoti Mala Prasad is a PACRES PhD student at the University of the South Pacific (USP) studying Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA). Ms. Prasad's primary research interest is in climate change and its effects on ecosystems, which have an impact on food security and livelihoods in communities. Her research will be conducted in EbA practices, which are a nature-based solution that connects traditional biodiversity and ecosystem conservation approaches with sustainable socioeconomic development as part of a larger strategy to assist local indigenous communities in adapting to climate change. Taveuni and Macuata in Fiji, and Port Vila in Vanuatu, are her research locations. The study will help to understand EbA from the perspective of Pacific Islanders, as well as whether its practices integrate food security while also enhancing local communities' sustainable livelihoods in the face of climate change.

Publication:

Prasad, Jyoti Mala, Hilda Waqa-Sakiti, and Lau Dr. Viliamu Iese. 2022. "An analysis of ecosystem-based adaptations in Pacific Island." Pacific Dynamics: Journal of Interdisciplinary Research 6 (1): 50-68. doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.26021/12510.

Port Vila Urban Greening Master Plan National Workshop Underway

The Port Vila Urban Greening Master Plan project supported by PACRES and implemented by SPREP in partnership with the Vanuatu Government conducted a national stakeholder's consultation on 22 June 2022 in Port Vila.

Led by the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP), the workshop was livestreamed and covered topics including stakeholder consultation outcomes, precincts, policy review and the proposed Plan targets.

Participants included officials from relevant ministries such as the Department of Environment Protection & Conservation, Department of Forestry, Department of Climate Change, business representatives, youth ward Presidents, Shefa Provincial Council, Malvatumauri Council of Chiefs and the Vanuatu Society for People with Disability. Savvy Vanuatu Consultancy firm is leading the preparation of the Master Plan in partnership with USP under the guidance of a Steering Committee, headed by the DUAP and will focus on four areas within the city, consisting of the Northern Gateway (main road from airport to Tekabor), Central Business District (Tana Russet to central Market House), Parliamentary and Cultural Institutions Precinct and the Southern Traffic Corridor. Feedback from the workshop will guide the development of an effective and realistic Master Plan that is expected to be available in early August.

Marine Ecosystem Rehabilitation for five villages in Savai'i underway

The Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP) in partnership with the Government of Samoa through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) carried out rehabilitation activities to enhance marine ecosystems in five sites on the island of Savaii at Sale'aula, Sato'alepai, Saipipi, Siutu and Vaito'omuli. Held in June 2022, the rehabilitation activities aimed to develop baseline information on key marine ecosystems and supported by PACRES in a joint effort with the Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification.

The project implemented Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) options to combat the impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems at the five sites. This consisted of replanting and protection of sea grass ecosystems, coral reef gardening and mangrove replanting, and rehabilitation to help protect their shorelines and improve the richness of marine ecosystems.

The monitoring and care of the nursery will be undertaken by the five communities while guidance and technical support will be provided by SPREP, MNRE and MAF until such time when they are planted in permanent locations to replace corals that have been affected. This process will take at least six months.

Barana Nature and Heritage Park (BNHP) Nursery improvement and expansion work

Solomon Islands is one of five Pacific ACP countries where PACRES is scaling up adaptation/ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) pilots. This work is being implemented jointly by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), The Pacific Community (SPC) and the University of the South Pacific (USP). The Solomon Islands PACRES project is building on and extending activities by the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) and International Waters Ridge to Reef projects, promoting the use of EbA approaches to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to climate change around Honiara, through the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM), Ministry of Forestry and Research (MFR) and the Honiara City Council (HCC).

As part of this work, PACRES is improving and expanding the existing Barana Nature and Heritage Park (BNHP) Nursery to facilitate raising seedlings, and re-planting of seedlings and wildlings in areas around Honiara and BNHP rehabilitation.

For the improvement and expansion work of the Nursery, PACRES built a new soil preparation and potting shed (4m x 10m x 2.1m) and a new germination shed (3m x 4m x 1.2m) with indoor and outdoor (open) germination boxes 2.5m x 1.2m x 0.25m.

The sheds are constructed with timber and shed net 70% - 50% green cloth covering. A total of fifteen (15) timber Standout (open) nursery beds 10m x 1.2m x 0.25m with an estimated capacity of 25,000 seedlings were constructed. The existing nursery shed structure's rotten and decayed timbers, indoor beds and screen net covering were replaced. The construction work commenced on 5 December 2021 and was completed on 18 March 2022. The delay was due to Covid-19 community transmission.

University Students Join PACRES Tagabe River Tree Planting Programme

PACRES Project team in Vanuatu were thrilled to host the students from the University of the South Pacific (USP) and from the National University of Vanuatu (NUV) on 8 June 2022 to participate in the Tagabe river tree planting programme. The students learnt about the importance of taking care of natural resources for the improvement of the peoples' livelihoods along the Tagabe river as well as other provinces in Vanuatu. The students planted 35 riparian palm species along the Tagabe river for improving the eco-system.

Thirty vetiver grass were also planted along the bank of the Tagabe river for stabilising the riverbank from erosion. Vetiver grass has a deep rooting system of three meters.

The students also took part in the Tagabe river catchment Zone 3 tree planting programme on 21 June 2022. They acknowledge with gratitude the support from the PACRES Project at the Department of Climate Change and SPREP for capacity building opportunities to broaden their knowledge in areas of environment and resources management.

Pacific Educators Champion Resilience

The Pacific Community (SPC) has been working to develop resilience and sustainable energy educational courses that are relevant for the future needs of the region. For the Pacific region's education systems, the challenge is to continuously review and update qualifications and courses that young learners can identify with, while offering opportunities for employment.

Aligning to these goals, two courses have recently been reviewed and accredited that focus on resilience and sustainable energy in the Pacific and launched in Suva on 22 April 2022. The Articulated Resilience Certificates (Level 2 and 4) are practical and focused on skills around installation, management, and effective renewable energy solutions more broadly.

Acting Director of SPC's GEM (Geoscience Energy and Maritime) Division, Ms. Rhonda Robinson, launched the qualifications and reiterated the critical need for these types of career options for Pacific youth.

Learners can engage in a qualification that reflects the realities of where they live, while attaining skills and knowledge that are recognised internationally as best practice for resilience building in the Pacific. The hope is to equip communities, individuals and sectors with the skills required to support a resilient Pacific region.

The two courses provide learning options over a maximum of 24 months and are competency-based transferrable skills for community members and Pacific people from around the region to become resilience champions. Course content covers agriculture, coastal management, energy and infrastructure, fisheries, forestry, health, tourism, and water resources.

This qualification provides a bridge to offer individuals and organisations upskilling providing new and improved employment opportunities across the Pacific. The course is being run by Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions and more information will be available shortly on enrolment.

The qualifications are part of PACRES, which is ensuring better regional and national adaptation and mitigation responses to climate change challenges facing Pacific countries. The project is supported by the European Union (EU) and has been accredited by Educational Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP) in consultation with National Qualifications Agencies and industry partners from across the Pacific.

Read full press release: https://www.spc.int/updates/blog/2022/04/pacific-educators-champion-resilience

Resilience Education to Capture Pacific Stars

The Pacific Community (SPC) has developed a new Diploma in Resilience and launched in Suva on 16 June 2022. It is a first in the region and it addresses gaps in climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction and will produce graduates that will provide future leadership in climate resilience. The programme follows the Articulated Certificates Level 2 and 4 in Resilience announced in April 2022. These certificates now provide a pathway for those wishing to pursue further studies in a Diploma Level 5 and 6.

The two courses are designed to meet the needs of the region and have been endorsed through close consultations with regional experts and stakeholders. The diplomas are 100 percent Pacific grown. The Articulated Resilience Certificates (Level 2 and 4) are practical and focused more broadly on skills around installation, management and effective renewable energy solutions.

Graduates will have the tools to promote engagement and partnership with government and negotiate with stakeholders to allow community action, while communicating with leaders at all levels to advance the understanding of disaster risk reduction and building resilience strategies.

"Our partnerships and collaboration to support growth in resilience education recognises Pacific solutions for Pacific people to spur professionals in climate resilience," said PACRES TVET Coordinator, Melinda Mathers.

The PACRES project has valued regional organisations and institutions sharing information, results and knowledge about climate action to strengthen the Pacific's capacity to intervene, mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The Level 5 and 6 Diplomas in Resilience are the first resilience qualifications at a diploma level that focus on providing the Pacific with graduates who will act as agents for change in their local communities. The regionally-endorsed qualifications aim to open new doors for current resilience professionals to advance in their fields and also looks to encourage non-professional volunteers and workers to pursue a career in the region's resilience sector.

Read full press release: https://www.spc.int/updates/blog/video/2022/06/resilience-education-to-capture-pacific-stars