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PACRES PACIFIC ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE BUILDING

Gouvernement Princier PRINCIPAUTÉ DE MONACO

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Newsletter

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Meet the team:

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Building resilience to climate change and natural disasters in Gulf Province, Papua New Guinea

In late August 2021, an assessment team led by Ms Luanne Losi, Acting Manager, Adaptation Branch, Climate Change Development Authority (CCDA) visited the low-lying coastal Karama and surrounding communities in Gulf Province to undertake community consultations and field assessments for the PACRES project that will enhance resilience to climate change and natural disasters. SPREP's PACRES Project Officer, PACRES USP (UPNG), our consultant's representative, the Karama community focal point and CCDA personnel made up the team.

After introductory calls on the Provincial Government and district administrations the team spent three days with the communities, assessing flood protection, food and water security options. Options to build resilience will be finalised in the coming days and selected options implemented with the communities in 2022. Community consultations confirmed a general understanding of climate change among people, however, there is a need for specific climate change concepts and information to be available in local language. The community favoured a participatory approach to consultations rather than more structured formal interviews.

The contribution of PACRES to Karama will enhance the already existing knowledge in the community in terms of mangrove rehabilitation and provide alternative options for water and food security and enable disaster preparedness for the community. Ms Losi noted "The community is already resilient to the impacts of climate change, however, with the right support and training then the community will be better able to make decisions to increase their resilience and adaptive capacity".

PACRES will also fund additional Vulnerability Needs Assessments for a number of other coastal communities in Gulf Province in 2022-23.

About PACRES

The €12.18 million Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) is a multi-donor project funded primarily by the European Union (€12 million) with targeted support from Monaco and the Swiss Confederation. It aims to ensure better regional and national adaptation and mitigation responses to climate change challenges facing Pacific ACP countries.

PACRES is being delivered jointly by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Pacific Community (SPC) and the University of the South Pacific (USP). Implementation will continue through to mid-2023.

PACRES is providing regional support by:

- strengthening regional coordination in climate change and disaster resilience through the multi-stakeholder Pacific Resilience Partnership for the effective implementation of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) - an integrated approach to address climate change and disaster risk management;
- assisting national governments in United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations;
- strengthening existing climate change and disaster resilience networks;
- scaling up Pacific professional resilience capacity, including through enhanced technical and vocational education and training qualifications;
- increasing access to and reach of climate change and disaster resilience information;
- a USP research programme; and
- strengthening strategic engagement and dialogue with the private sector to deepen regional and public sector understanding of the role and contribution of the private sector with respect to climate change and disaster resilience.

In Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu PACRES is scaling up adaptation pilots including ecosystem-based adaptation. These are the five Pacific ACP countries not receiving similar support under GCCA+ Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (SUPA).

In other participating Pacific ACP countries, PACRES is supporting:

- review or development of climate change and disaster resilience strategies and policies;
- further mainstreaming of climate change and disaster resilience; and
- national climate change information portals.

News in brief

In the second half of 2021, the PACRES teams at SPREP, PIFS, SPC and USP continue to implement activities regionally and nationally across the Pacific and Timor-Leste in close collaboration with national partners.

- Some highlights since our last newsletter include;
- Commencement of a consultancy to mainstream climate change in Niue;
- A contract to expand the Barana Nature Heritage Park Nursery in Solomon Islands;
- Support for Tonga's Climate Change Awareness Week;
- Expansion of the Tagabe Forest Nursery and commencement of community supported tree planting in the Tagabe watershed in Vanuatu;
- Commencement of a consultancy to develop Port Vila's CBD Greening Master Plan;
- Scoping missions and community consultations to progress ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) pilots in Savaii, Samoa, and to build resilience to climate change and natural disaster in Karama and surrounding communities in Gulf Province in Papua New Guinea;
- Support to Pacific Delegation before, during and following COP26.;
- On-line delivery of Resilience Certificate 4 in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu;
- Ongoing support for the Pacific Regional Federation for Resilience Professionals, including a survey of member capacity development needs;
- Engagement of a consultant to develop an EbA decision support tool to assist Pacific planners and decision makers; and
- Engagement of a consultant to produce visualisations of likely climate change impacts on Pacific fisheries.

Pacific Resilience Partnership

PIFS through the Pacific Resilience Partnership convened a capacity building workshop for eight young filmmakers and poets on 13 October supported by the British High Commission in Suva and other development partners. The main objective of the workshop was to engage and involve the Pacific youths to share their own messages on resilience under the theme "Our Actions Now - Our Future, Our Resilience" through a short video competition. Through the competition, 7 emerging filmmakers and 10 poets, aged between 14 and 25, were selected from a wide range of entrants who submitted videos and poetry. The winners were invited to participate in this half-day virtual filmmaking/ videography workshop.

Melanesia Sub-regional Private Sector Climate Finance Workshop

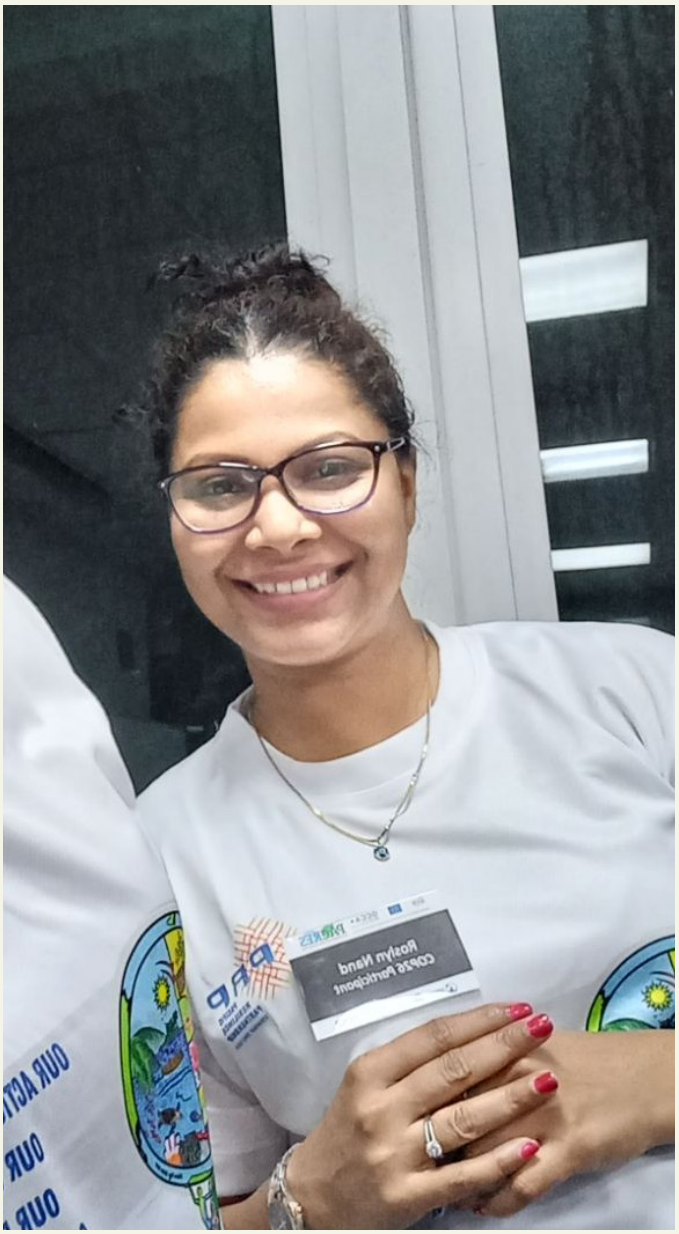
The workshop co-hosted by the Government of Vanuatu, Vanuatu Business Resilience Council and PIFS was held on 21-22 September with a focus on unlocking potential opportunities for climate financing and to increase awareness of, and access to, climate finance and options for public-private partnership and investment. It saw over 60 participants from government and the private sector across Fiji, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, as well as CROP agencies and development partners.

The two-day workshop was opened by Hon. Bruno Leignkone Tau, Vanuatu's Minister of Climate Change, Energy, Environment, Meteorology & Geo-hazards and Disaster Risk Management who emphasised the need to leverage funding capacity and know-how of the private sector to build climate resilience and reduce emission through innovative public private partnerships.

Talanoa session about Tonga Chamber of Commerce and Industry's experience in accessing the GCF's readiness grant

A virtual information session about Tonga's Green Climate Fund (GCF) readiness programme was held on 31 August. The event saw more than 20 participants from the private sector link with the GCF National Designated Authority (NDA) Offices across the Pacific. The information session was facilitated jointly by PIFS and Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO) and featured Tonga's Chamber of Commerce & Industry (TCCI), Tonga's Department of Climate Change, and the Tonga Development Bank. The session aimed to enhance private sector knowledge and understanding of GCF readiness support and learning from the experiences and lessons shared by Tonga on accessing it. Private sector partners also gained new insights of the role they play in building resilience at national level.

The readiness programme will support Tonga's private sector to strengthen its engagement with key partners in climate actions and build capacity of its members to develop GCF concept notes and funding proposals.



Contribution of Women towards Small-scale fisheries

A PACRES Masters research student recently published an article in the Women in Fisheries Information Bulletin (#34) "recognizing the contribution of women in small-scale fisheries to improve food security and resilience in Fiji". Ms. Roslyn Nand, a second year PACRES supported Masters student, highlighted the limited consideration given to small-scale women fishers in the Pacific. Fisheries data are documented for direct, formal and paid fishing activities, which are mostly carried out by men. Activities carried out by women are unpaid, informal and indirect, and as such are not recognised and reported.

This paints an incomplete picture of the role women play in small-scale fisheries, undervaluing their contribution to food security, small-scale fisheries resource management and building resilience in the Pacific. In an effort to address this issue, Roslyn is documenting the role of women in small-scale fisheries in the Tailevu and Serua coastal communities in Fiji, including the impacts of climate change on small-scale fisheries in these communities. She hopes to provide recommendations for future researchers and policy makers to enable better coastal resource management and policy planning to increase food security and resilience in Fiji.

Full article at: https://pace.usp.ac.fj/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/WIF34_48_Nand.pdf

Launch of Resilience Certificate IV in Vanuatu

PACRES is supporting 19 students (9 from Solomon Islands and 10 from Vanuatu) undertake Resilience Certificate IV training. USP in collaboration with the Department of Climate Change organised an event to congratulate and support the Vanuatu Resilience Certificate IV awardees in August 2021. Of the 10 participants in Vanuatu five are from the Department of Climate Change, two are from the National Disaster Management Office, one is from the Department of Water Resources, one is from Maro Landscaping and Botanical Gardens (a community non-government organization) and one is from the Adventist Development & Relief Agency.

Pacific Political Climate Change Champions to COP26

Pacific Islands Forum Leaders supported the COP 26 Political Climate Change Champions initiative by the One CROP Team to advocate for Pacific priorities at COP26 in Glasgow. The champions were announced through a launch facilitated by the One CROP team for COP26: https://www.sprep.org/news/pacific-political-climate-champions-amplify-call-for-urgent-action. The champions were Cook Islands Prime Minister, Hon. Mark Brown, Fiji's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Climate Change, Hon Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Palau's Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment, Hon. Steven Victor, Tuvalu's Minister of Finance and Climate Change, Hon. Seve Paeniu and the Republic of Marshall Islands Minister of Health, Hon. Bruce Bilimon.

In the context of strengthening the linkages between the FRDP and Paris Agreement PACRES funded the PIFS PACRES Project Coordinator's participation at COP26 through the One CROP team to support the Political Climate Champions and technical negotiations. The PIFS PACRES Project Coordinator provided logistical support to the Political Climate Change Champions on Environmental Integrity (Palau's Hon. Steven Victor) and Ambition (RMI Hon. Bruce Bilimon) and supported the PSIDS lead negotiator on the Paris Agreement Enhanced Transparency Framework. There were also opportunities to advocate for the FRDP and PRP through side events such as the launch of the EU-Pacific Green Blue Alliance with the PRP Youth Hub co-chair a part of the panel sharing experiences on the PRP youth work. In addition, the Technical Working Group on Human Mobility was featured prominently through the side event hosted by the Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security as well as the side event hosted by the Platform for Disaster Displacement on 'From Science to Policy and Action: Human Mobility in Times of Climate Change'.

Pre-COP Training and virtual participation in COP26 in Glasgow

PACRES is developing the capacity of young Pacific climate negotiators. As part of this activity, USP organised a virtual Pre-COP training over three-days 28–30 September 2021 to train six students and a team of 10 backstoppers on the structure and processes of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties. A total of 45 participants, 26 women & 19 men, joined the training. Participants included USP students and representatives from selected Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDS) government delegations, Civil Society Organisations, Pacific Conference of Churches, PRP Youth Hub, and PACRES partners. Key topics covered during the training included PSIDS COP26 priorities, climate science and findings of the latest IPCC report AR6, oceans and climate, climate diplomacy, loss and damage, adaptation, gender and climate change, faith-based organisations and communication. Following the training, the PACRES supported students joined the virtual UNFCCC COP26 PSIDS Preparatory Meeting 5–8 October 2021 organised by SPREP to continue their preparations for the Glasgow COP26.

A team of 13 (9 women and 4 men) students then joined COP26 virtually. Six of the 13 students provided back stopping support to the Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu Government delegations, while the remaining students supported the core team of six. Most USP student participants joined the sessions from a central location at USP, while one joined from Solomon Islands and one from New Zealand. Despite the time difference, students managed to follow various discussions and side events throughout COP26.

SPREP Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme | PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT | Pacific Community Communauté du Pacifique | USP THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

For further information on PACRES please
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