

Food Security and Climate Change

Key Information

Project title: Enhanced climate change resilience of food production systems in Pacific Island countries and territories

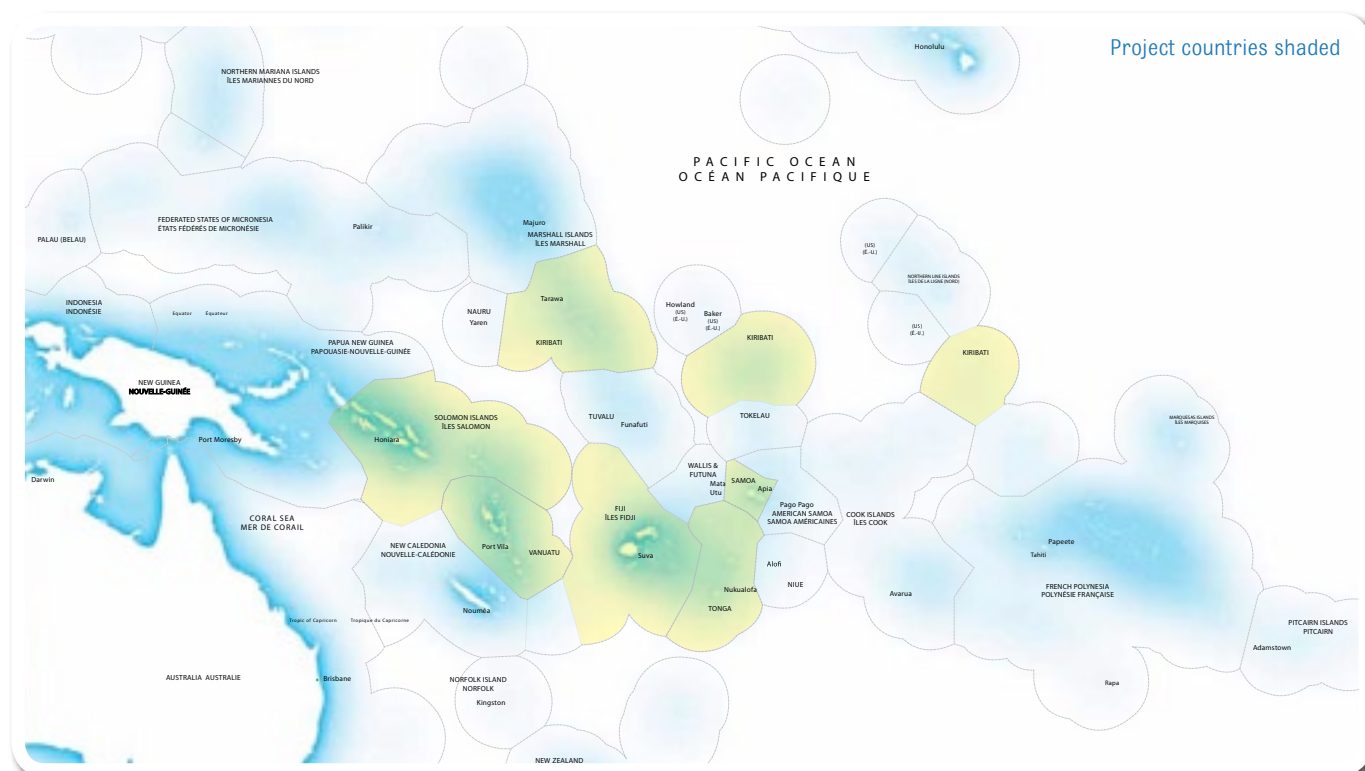
Implementing agencies: Secretariat of the Pacific Community in partnership with national and provincial governments, regional agencies, development partners and non-governmental agencies.

Funded by: United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Target countries: Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu

Implementation period: 2012 to 2014

Budget: USD 4 million



Background


Long-term food security is emerging as a major issue in Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs). Population growth, rural to urban migration, deforestation and soil erosion are just a few of the issues that compound food security concerns in the region. It is now recognised that climate change is also likely to adversely affect food production in PICTs over the coming decades.

SPC and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), in collaboration with partner agencies, are supporting the governments of six Pacific countries – Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu – in their efforts to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change on food security. The support includes updating vegetation and land cover maps at the national level for Fiji, Kiribati and Solomon Islands, as well as working with local communities to implement appropriate adaptation measures to build their resilience to climate change. Successful models will inform sectoral and national policies in PICTs. This is the ‘Enhanced climate change resilience of food production systems in Pacific Island countries and territories project’.

GOAL

Evaluate and implement innovative techniques and management approaches to increasing the climate change resilience of land-based food production systems for communities in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.


The project aims to achieve its goal through the introduction of integrated terrestrial food production systems based on assessments of the climate resilience of existing systems at selected sites. This is being supported by improved land-system data and analysis tools, such as vegetation and land use mapping and the application of geographic information systems (GIS). The project works to build the capacity of participating countries to use GIS tools and techniques to help identify key areas of food supply vulnerability, and to monitor vegetation and land cover change over time. These assessments are based on up-to-date country-level climate change projections. The project outputs will also be used to inform national and agriculture sector climate change adaptation response strategies in the recipient countries and other PICTs.

A photograph showing a sandy beach with a large pile of fallen, bleached tree trunks and branches in the foreground. In the background, there are palm trees and dense vegetation under a clear blue sky.


Coastal erosion in Ha'apai, Tonga

A photograph showing three men in a rural landscape. One man in a white shirt and cap is gesturing towards the ground, while two others, one in a green shirt, listen. The background shows rolling green hills and a clear sky.

Joint team of agriculture extension and SPC officers consulting with farming communities in Sabeto, Nadi.

A photograph showing a group of people, mostly women, sitting on the floor in a room with blue and white walls. They are gathered around a large sheet of paper, possibly a map or a document, and appear to be engaged in a discussion or consultation.

Community consultations in Samoa

A photograph showing a large, arched structure covered in green netting, which serves as a nursery for plants. Several people are standing inside the structure, and there are wooden tables or benches in the foreground.

Established nurseries in Sabeto, Fiji

OBJECTIVES

- 1 Improve the understanding of Pacific Island communities on the present and potential future effects of climate change that will threaten food security, and work with local communities to develop and build on existing methods of adaptation to cope with these effects.

The delineation of agriculture and forest areas from high resolution imagery of three project countries (Kiribati, Fiji and Solomon Islands) to establish vegetation and land cover maps, as well as using the participatory approach to gather information to establish the level of understanding of the effects of climate change on land-based food production systems. The project will build on this to improve and develop adaptation strategies and therefore resilience to the future potential threats caused by climate change in the region.

- 2 Improve the ability of all levels of the region to improve food security, as well as build on their ability to respond to changing climatic conditions.

This will concentrate on the growing problem of food security in the region, salt water intrusion and unpredictable seasons. The project hopes to work with communities, and provincial/local and national governments to develop integrated farming approaches that promote diversification, require minimal input and are sustainable, particularly at the community level. These approaches will include crop and livestock diversity, agroforestry, the introduction of climate-ready staple crops, and monitoring and prevention of crop/livestock pests and diseases.

- 3 Improve the integration of successful approaches into adaptation strategies at all levels in the region, from rural communities to national planners.

This objective aims to introduce successful multi-sectoral management practices and approaches into adaption planning in order to improve resilience at all levels.





Boat is the main mode of transport in
Choiseul Province, Solomon Islands.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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