



European Union



SPC
Secretariat
of the Pacific
Community

The Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States project



Providing rainwater harvesting tanks to households in Niue and trialling coastal protection measures in Tonga.

Project amount

The project budget is € 11.4 million funded by the European Union

Project description

The Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project is funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

The implementation period for the GCCA: PSIS project is from the date of signature of the agreement, 19 July 2011, to 19 November 2016.

The overall objective of the GCCA: PSIS project is to support the governments of nine Pacific smaller island states, namely Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu, in their efforts to tackle the adverse effects of climate change.

The purpose of the project is to promote long-term strategies and approaches to adaptation planning and pave the way for more effective and coordinated aid delivery on climate change at the national and regional level.

The project approach is to assist the nine countries design and implement practical on-the-ground climate change adaptation projects in conjunction with mainstreaming climate change into line ministries and national development plans, thereby helping countries move from an ad hoc project-by-project approach towards a programmatic approach underpinning an entire sector. This has the added advantage of helping countries better position themselves to access and benefit from new sources and modalities of climate change funding, e.g. national and sector budget support.

Key partners

For more information on key partnerships please see the accompanying national factsheets. Partners include ADB, APAN, GIZ, NIWA (NZ), PFTAC, PIFS, SPREP, UNDP, USAID (ADAPT Asia-Pacific), USP, WHO

Four key result areas

- National climate change adaptation projects are implemented.
- Climate change is mainstreamed into national and/or sector response strategies.
- Well articulated sectoral adaptation strategies that address budget support criteria.
- Streamlined technical assistance that supports national adaptation responses are delivered by regional organisations in a collaborative manner.

Nine national climate change adaptation projects

National climate change adaptation projects, each with a budget of € 0.5 million over a two to three year planning and implementation period are in progress:

1. Environmental monitoring to enhance community livelihoods, including pearl farmers, in low-lying atolls of Cook Islands
2. Increasing coastal water security for climate change in selected state outlying islands of Federated States of Micronesia
3. Improving implementation of environmental health surveillance and response to climate sensitive health risks in Kiribati
4. Building capacity to address coastal protection in the Marshall Islands
5. Expanding national water storage capacity and improving water security in Nauru
6. Augmentation of rainwater capture and storage in Niue
7. Addressing water sector climate change vulnerabilities in the outlying island states of Palau
8. Trialling coastal protection measures in eastern Tongatapu, Tonga
9. Improving agroforestry systems to enhance food security and build resilience to climate change in Tuvalu



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Improving local food production in Tuvalu and strengthening water infrastructure in Palau.

Highlights of project implementation

- Focusing on the more remote and inaccessible communities in the outer islands* of Cook Islands, FSM, Marshall Islands, Palau and Tuvalu, where travel involves days of sea transport, internet reach is limited and communities are small

Targeting special groups such as senior citizens in the outer islands of Cook Islands, and women in the outer islands of Tuvalu
- Implementing tangible, on-the-ground, country-driven climate change adaptation projects* in agriculture, health, water, coastal and fisheries sectors, and learning valuable lessons for future upscaling

Sharing lessons learnt through video documentaries and short nationally produced videos and exchange visits
- Building national capacity in technical areas* relating to climate change adaptation, such as hard and soft coastal protection measures in Marshall Islands and Tonga, solar water disinfection in vulnerable communities in Kiribati, and the use of climate-ready crops in Tuvalu; and in *project management, financial management and proposal preparation* in all nine countries, for example, 291 people have been trained in proposal preparation resulting in the submission of 54 proposals for funding
- Mainstreaming climate change into national policies and plans* in Kiribati, Nauru, Niue and Palau, such that the national documents are aligned with the Regional Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP)

Mainstreaming climate change into national sectors in Kiribati (health sector), Nauru (water sector), Tonga (coastal sector) and Tuvalu (agricultural sector)

Assisting countries to access new streams of climate change finance through the preparation of assessments and mainstreaming profiles, applying for National Implementing Entity status for the Adaptation Fund (Cook Islands), developing a national climate change fund (Tonga)

- Forming partnerships* with other projects, programmes, national and regional organisations to maximise the available capacity and the long-term benefit, for example, combining efforts with Australia and the United Nations Development Programme to construct a national water tank moulding facility and provide tanks to every inhabited household in Niue

Contributing to and supporting regional initiatives in collaboration with CROP agencies and other organisations, including the SRDP and the Pacific Climate Change Portal.

Lessons learnt for future opportunities

- Forming practical partnerships, while time consuming, is an effective way of maximising the available national human resources in the Pacific Islands, especially noting the large number of climate change projects and activities ongoing in the countries
- Capacity building through formal education, on-the-job training, attachments and other means is vital for ensuring sustainability of good practice
- Regular offerings of short term training courses on project and financial management, accredited to a tertiary educational institution, will help build much needed capacity in areas such as procurement, monitoring and evaluation
- Designing projects with a minimum five-year project timeframe is required for the implementation of projects especially in remote, inaccessible outer islands.