



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

THE **COASTAL
COMMUNITY
ADAPTATION PROJECT**

*Helping Pacific Island
Communities Adapt to
a Changing Climate*

C-CAP NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2014

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RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONIES



**KICK
OFF NEW ERA**



OF INCREASED RESILIENCE TO DROUGHT IN PAPUA NEW GUINEAN AND SAMOAN VILLAGES

USAID/C-CAP Expands Rainwater Collection Capacity by Nearly 500,000 Liters with Completed Infrastructure Adaptation Projects

It was a bad month for ribbons, but a great one for water security in the Pacific Islands region, as USAID/C-CAP hosted dignitaries and community partners at ribbon-cutting ceremonies for climate resilient infrastructure projects in Papua New Guinea and Samoa. Collectively, USAID/C-CAP installed 97 rainwater catchment systems and restored four more, increasing potable water storage capacity by more than 460,000 liters.

This vast increase in the partner villages' rainwater catchment capacity positions residents to be more resilient to the impacts of drought. These interventions are considered 'no regrets' climate adaptation projects. Predictions, by their nature, have a degree of uncertainty, but regardless of climate projection outcomes, increased rainwater storage will unequivocally benefit the communities.

RIGHT: Mr. Peter Ganser, Chargé d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy Samoa, and Mrs. Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago-Elisara, Chief Executive Officer of the Samoan Ministry of Women pose before leading a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Auala, Samoa.

Photo by C-CAP



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RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONIES *continued...*

Like flooding and cyclones, droughts are a product of *climate variability*—regular climate stressors that impact on beneficiary communities. *Predicted climate change* is an added stress to this naturally occurring variability that will increase the communities' already challenged ability to meet their potable water needs. The USAID/C-CAP 'no regrets' adaptation interventions increase the resilience of communities to *both* climate variability and projected climate change. All C-CAP infrastructure adaptation projects are designed to *structurally* withstand the impacts of climate variability and projected climate change; and *functionally* increase community resilience to the impacts of climate variability and change.

Mr. Peter Ganser, Chargé d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy Samoa, and Mrs. Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago-Elisara, Chief Executive Officer of the Samoan Ministry of Women led the ceremony, which was hosted by the Auala community in late March. The adaptation projects increased rainwater catchment capacity by 87,000 liters in each of four Savai'i

Island villages: Asau, Auala, Falealupo and Sapapalii. **"The United States, building on strong historic ties to this region, is vigorously deepening its commitment to Pacific Islands...some of the most vulnerable to climate change, to better adapt to those negative impacts and build lasting resilience,"** said Mr. Ganser.

Earlier this month, to the far west of Samoa in Papua New Guinea, U.S.

Deputy Assistant Secretary Dennise Mathieu, U.S. Ambassador Walter North, and USAID Mission Director for the Philippines and Pacific Islands Gloria Steele officially handed over new rainwater catchment infrastructure to Pari Village and Mr. Varigini Badira and Mr. Jacob Ekinye, Executive Director and Acting Director of the Adaptation Division, respectively, of the PNG Office of Climate Change and Development.



ABOVE: Pastor Puka Tom and Deputy Assistant Secretary Dennise Mathieu cutting the ribbon of the new free-standing rainwater catchment system in Pari, Papua New Guinea.



ABOVE: From the shelter of the new structure, Pari residents enjoy the ribbon-cutting celebration.

LEFT: Addressing the crowd gathered in Pari village to celebrate the inauguration of new rainwater infrastructure—Executive Director of PNG's national Office of Climate Change and Development, Mr. Varigini Barida (center) conveyed thanks to the U.S. Government and the American people for the important adaptation assistance being delivered through C-CAP and other USAID initiatives, noting that climate change adaptation action is much-needed in PNG.

Photos by C-CAP.



NEW RECRUITS

C-CAP CONTINUES TO GATHER MOMENTUM -
NEW RECRUITS HIT THE GROUND RUNNING.

USAID/C-CAP is well on the way to accomplishing its ultimate objective: the delivery of much-needed climate change adaptation assistance to 90-plus communities across 12 Pacific Island countries. Ramping up the C-CAP program, this month, five new Country Mobilizers (CMs) were added to the ranks: Toaki Arinoko from **Kiribati**—an island chain nation strung across a territory as large as India; Christal Vorbach from the single-island nation of **Nauru**; Vivolyn Stanley from divers' paradise, **Solomon Islands**; Timaio Auega from low-lying **Tuvalu**; and Yvette Tari from **Vanuatu**—a nation of 83 islands and 110 living languages.

The new CMs will be the project's on-the-ground presence and ongoing community engagement facilitators for their respective countries. C-CAP also welcomes our new Infrastructure Specialist, Sanjay Prasad who joined the team in March. Sanjay is based in the C-CAP Suva regional office to facilitate and coordinate joint work with C-CAP's Fiji-based design engineering firm, NRW Macallan.

At the end of March, the five new CMs travelled to Suva, Fiji, to gather with the C-CAP team—including the seasoned CMs hailing from PNG, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji—and participate

in C-CAP training seminars. The training covered C-CAP's best practice climate change adaptation implementation techniques and methodologies—essential information for the instruction of new recruits, and an opportunity for existing staff to share and accrue knowledge recently-acquired through project activities.

Normally geographically dispersed, the C-CAP team—including five new Country Mobilizers (CMs)—came together at the end of March for in-house training

BELOW: From left: Jeremy Cole (Senior Technical Advisor), Isoa Korovulavula (Community Liaison Officer), Yvette Tari (Vanuatu CM), Angela Pari (NRW Macallan), Vivolyn Stanley (Solomon Islands CM), Toaki Arinoko (Kiribati CM), Reshmi Gupta (Admin and Finance Officer), Timaio Auega (Tuvalu CM), Stephen Smith (Chief of Party), Christal Vorbach (Nauru CM), Teddy Fong (Community Liaison Specialist), Cecilia Amosa (Samoa CM), Semi Masilomani (Fiji CM), 'Unaloto Puloka (Tonga CM), Sanjay Prasad (Infrastructure Specialist), Isimel Tuembe (PNG CM), Nicholas Hobgood (Deputy Chief of Party). Photo by C-CAP.



NEW RECRUITS *continued...*

The training program included field exercises for the CMs to practice demonstrated community engagement processes and skills. During the training, C-CAP rolled out and field tested the disaster risk reduction component of the project, which will build on and complement the participating C CAP communities' growing awareness of climate change with capacity to address disaster vulnerabilities.

Now working with over 63 communities across nine countries, C-CAP continues to make progress demonstrating a range of robust resilience-building models. These models are designed to suit the needs of Pacific Island coastal communities as culturally diverse as they are environmentally nuanced, and which encapsulate the predicaments of countless other tropical island communities across the region and beyond.



LEFT: C-CAP's newest Country Mobilizers in Daku community, Fiji, presenting the findings of an infrastructure prioritization training exercise.



ABOVE: USAID/C-CAP staff with Daku community leaders. Daku will receive a new flood gate through the project in the coming months to help mitigate the village's flooding issues that are worsening with sea level rise and climate change. Situated an hour from the project's regional office in Suva, Fiji, Daku community has kindly hosted and participated in a number of C CAP practical training exercises. *Photos by C-CAP.*

PROFILES:

GET TO KNOW C-CAP'S NEWEST COUNTRY MOBILIZERS:

CHRISTAL, TIMAO, TOAKI, VIVOLYN, AND YVETTE.

Country Mobilizers (CMs) are the project's country-level specialists, ongoing community engagement facilitators, and on-ground implementers.

The new CMs were asked to describe their backgrounds, what sparked their interest in climate change matters, and how they feel about their new role. Find their answers on the following pages...



CHRISTAL



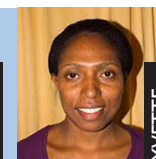
TIMAO



TOAKI



VIVOLYN



YVETTE



CECILIA



ISMEL



SEMI



'UNALOTO

NAURU CM

CHRISTAL VORBACH



“It is not an easy task, but an important one.”

I am from a place called Etangin Katsimor ("A place of happiness") — officially called Bauda District. Bauda is right in the middle of Nauru Island, physically isolated by a terrain shaped by years of phosphate mining, mango trees and bushes. The place is known for its famous lagoon, situated in the center of the district and used to farm milk fish, an activity of significant cultural value. Due to its relative isolation, the area instills a great sense of community value and ownership.

Coming from a Public Health background, I initially developed an interest in climate change as one factor that influences community health. However, it was from watching a film called "Thin Ice" by David Sington and Simon Lamb that I felt keenly drawn to work on climate change issues. I feel honored to work on the project—a project of significant value that is about reducing the impacts of climate change for the generation of today and the future. It is not an easy task but an important one.

TUVALU CM

TIMAIO AUEGA



I was born and grew up on the atoll island of Vaitupu, about 120 km north-west of Funafuti, Tuvalu's capital. My family practiced semi-subsistence farming, and planting was done in times of rain - I started to develop my interest in the environment as a little boy.

My first job within the government of Tuvalu was a secretary to island councils on all the islands of Tuvalu. In that role I worked on a project, which like C-CAP, aimed to help Tuvaluan communities prepare for the impacts of climate change through various means, including through the construction of water cisterns and seawalls.

I am very interested to work on delivering the Coastal Community Adaptation Project, as the project helps to improve the lives of the Pacific people by preparing them for the adverse impacts of climate change.

“My family practiced semi-subsistence farming, and planting was done in times of rain.”

KIRIBATI CM

TOAKI ARINOKO



I grew up in a small rural island called Makin, surrounded by sea and a small lagoon in the middle. In World War II the American troops called it Little Makin. When a causeway was built across the lagoon in 1970's its health declined so severely that it was called "the dead lagoon." I observed the positive difference properly planned infrastructure can make when a bridge was installed to replace the causeway in the 80s, restoring it to a beautiful lagoon.

I became interested in climate change when I attended a two day workshop on climate change run by a team from Australia. The ways in which human activity drives climate change was explained and discussed. I could see the link between the issues of global warming and climate change, and what had happened in my home island. Like building the wrong infrastructure in our lagoon, I could see that the use of greenhouse gases is harming environments and communities. I could also see evidence that climate change is impacting our lagoons.

“I could see the link between the issues of global warming and climate change, and what had happened in my home island.”

I previously worked to raise awareness in communities about the impact of climate change. Now my job as a CM is to make the community aware of climate change, and assist them to identify impacts and how to adapt to these impacts. So far I have found the most interesting and enjoyable part is providing assistance through the provision of infrastructure that will help the community be ready when severe impacts of climate change strike.

SOLOMON IS. CM

VIVOLYN STANLEY



I was raised in a small town called Auki in Malaita province, Solomon Islands. During school vacation I mostly spent it in the village where I went bush hiking and I started developing my interest in environment at an early age. Later my family moved to the main city of Honiara, where I live now.

I started developing an interest in climate change during the third year of my bachelor's degree in Environmental Science. My interest grew while doing community consultations for an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, where I heard first-hand the impacts climate change is having on small island coastal communities, including the way it impacts the livelihood of people. This was a heart-stirring experience. Understanding these issues gave me the passion to get involved in climate change work.

“...I heard first-hand the impacts of climate change...This was a heart-stirring experience.”

It's an exciting feeling to be part of a multicultural team that works together, sharing information on what the real issues of climate change are out there; and that motivates me to drive the project forward, as my other team members are doing, to create a positive impact in the Pacific.

“It's an exciting feeling to be part of a multicultural team... sharing information on what the real issues of climate change are out there...”

VANUATU CM

YVETTE TARI



I grew up in a rural setting on Vanuatu's Northern Island of Ambae, where my society is still practicing a traditional way of living. An active volcano lies in the interior of the island, and its dynamic influence on the landscape inspired my early interests in environmental issues.

My interest in climate change was sparked during my USP studies, as I became more aware of real environmental issues. This interest continues to grow the more I learn about the way that climate change is changing the character of natural weather events, the effects of which are now being thoroughly experienced by communities in the Pacific Island region.

I have always had an interest in developing information about, and solutions to, issues that are impacting on the health of the environment and the rich biodiversity of the region. Along with local-level human activities including the introduction of invasive species, I have observed that climate change is a key issue placing pressure on the environment-based livelihoods of communities in my country.

“...the effects of [climate change] are now being thoroughly experienced by communities in the Pacific Island region.”

C-CAP activities are now being delivered with the assistance of nine CMs. A further three CMs will be engaged later this year to assist with implementation of activities in the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and the Republic of Marshall Islands.

USAID/C-CAP TEAM 'ADAPTS' TO PACIFIC ISLAND CULTURES

**BENEFICIARY COMMUNITIES
TURN THE TABLES ON THE
USAID/C-CAP TEAM WITH
ADAPTATION INITIATIVES OF
THEIR OWN!**

The most widely accepted theory of the settling of the Pacific Islands region holds that its inhabitants descended from common ancestors who disembarked from the Bismarck Archipelago in Papua New Guinea at around 1200 B.C. to inhabit the far flung islands of Oceania. While there are many cultural and linguistic similarities between the citizens of present day Pacific Island nations, each country developed its own unique characteristics. Now, as USAID/C-CAP helps partner communities adapt to the impacts of climate variability and climate change, our project team also adapts to the cultural and linguistic differences of each country.

Fijian cultural traditions and ceremonies were on display this month, as USAID Mission Director for the Philippines and Pacific Islands Gloria Steele conducted a site visit to the neighboring Fijian villages of Vunisinu and Nalase to learn about the climate change adaptation measures being implemented through C-CAP. During the visit, Ms. Steele was presented with a Tabua (whale's tooth)—an artifact deeply rooted in Fijian history that remains an important cultural symbol of respect and gratitude. The Tabua represented the community's deep appreciation of USAID's assistance for improving its drainage infrastructure—an adaptation strategy for mitigating flooding and drainage issues, which are being exacerbated by climate change.

As shown in the picture to the right, the C-CAP team was dressed in traditional attire for the culturally rich occasion. Jeremy Cole and Semi Masilomani (center) have traded their standard western work clothes for a Fijian 'bula' shirt and 'sulu vakataga.' While 'bula' means 'hello' in Fijian, it is also the name of their shirts, which are similar to 'Hawaiian shirts.' The sulu vakataga is a formal wrap-around cloth with pockets, similar to the simpler 'sulu' (an ankle length wrap-around cloth—also called 'lavalava' in Polynesia—which is the informal wear in the villages and the traditional garment of choice for women). The sulu and sulu vakataga are the central part of the national wardrobe for both men and women in Fiji and in Polynesian nations including Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu.



ABOVE: USAID Mission Director of the Philippines and Pacific Islands Gloria Steele is presented with a tabua (whale's tooth) – a high honor in Fijian society.

BELOW: (From left) Brooke Langston - Peace Corp Response advisor to iTaukei Affairs, C-CAP Senior Technical Advisor Jeremy Cole, C-CAP Fiji Country Mobilizer Semi Masilomani, and the Turaga ni Koro for Vunisinu.



These are just two features of the rich, cultural tapestry of the Pacific, with more to be introduced to C-CAP Newsletter readers as the C-CAP team continues its adaptation initiatives across the region.

USAID LAUNCHES PACIFIC-AMERICAN CLIMATE FUND IN FIJI

GRANT-MAKING FACILITY TO SUPPORT CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

USAID/C-CAP Team Welcomes New United States Government Climate Adaptation Reinforcements to Oceania.

USAID/Pacific Islands Mission Director Gloria D. Steele launched the five-year Pacific-American Climate Fund in Suva this March. Like C-CAP, the Pacific-American Climate Fund will help communities in Pacific Island countries adapt to effects of climate change. At the launch, USAID showcased its many environment sector interventions in the Pacific by hosting information booths on C-CAP, the Mangrove Rehabilitation for Sustainably-Managed, Healthy Forests (MARSH) project, and Peace Corps, among others.

The Pacific-American Climate Fund, a US\$24-million grant program will provide grants to qualifying civil society organizations (CSOs) which will implement climate change adaptation activities. “The C-CAP team is pleased to welcome the Pacific American Climate Fund to the region,” noted C-CAP Chief of Party Stephen M. Smith. “We will take every opportunity to collaborate and share lessons learned in an effort to maximize the people of the United States’ support of efforts to catalyze climate adaptation in Pacific Island communities.”

The Fund’s region mirrors C-CAP’s; both programs support initiatives across 12 Pacific Island countries: Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga,

Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. The project is based in the Philippines but has regional offices in Suva, Fiji, Port Moresby, PNG and Majuro, Marshall Islands.

At the launch event, Mission Director Steele said, “The Pacific-American Climate Fund will support initiatives that will help reduce long-term vulnerabilities associated with climate change and achieve a sustainable, climate-resilient development at community level.” “This project further demonstrates the U.S. Government’s continuing commitment to expand its engagement with the Pacific region,” added U.S. Ambassador Reed.

Beyond supporting adaptation and other environment-focused initiatives—such as coastal, upland, or marine conservation, protection and management; coastal zone and water management; or agriculture, fisheries and other livelihood sector support—the Pacific-American Climate Fund will also help strengthen the organizational capacity of CSOs to ensure the sustainability of their efforts to meet the growing challenges of a changing climate.

C-CAP also participated in PACAM’s other March launch, held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.



ABOVE: (top) C-CAP Chief of Party Stephen M. Smith discusses climate adaptation with International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Oceania Regional Director Taholo Kami. IUCN is USAID’s agreement partner for implementation of USAID/MARSH.

(bottom) USAID Mission Director of the Philippines and Pacific Islands Gloria Steele and her team visit the C-CAP regional office on the campus of the University of the South Pacific while in Suva, Fiji for the Pacific American Climate Fund launch. *Photos by C-CAP*

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ADAPTATION IN MOTION

CHECKING IN WITH C-CAP COMMUNITIES: PAPUA NEW GUINEA, VANUATU, AND SAMOA.

In this periodic series, the C-CAP team checks in on partner communities that are navigating the long term process of climate change adaptation.

In PNG...

Nonovaul, Ungakum, Lossu I, Bol-Lamalawa, and Panabeli—these are the five New Ireland communities that are well on the way to effecting climate change adaptation strategies suited to their particular risks and needs. The process began in March by working with the C-CAP technical team.

During participatory workshops community members learned about climate change and its predicted impacts, mapped community assets and the specific risks that climate change poses to the community, and identified the types of infrastructure projects most suited to addressing those risks. Water security, coastal protection, aid post, and vehicular accessibility projects were amongst the infrastructure projects considered by the communities. Firming up the plans to construct or rehabilitate the top priority infrastructure will be the next item on the agenda for C-CAP and the communities—to be achieved through consultation with engineers, experts, and government stakeholders.

In Vanuatu...

C-CAP's Nicholas Hobgood and Isoa Korovulavula, joined by Dani Newcomb from USAID Philippines/Pacific Islands, met with a range of project stakeholders in Vanuatu in March, including representatives and officials from Tafea provincial government, Shefa provincial government, and Vanuatu's National Advisory Board (NAB). It was a productive round of meetings that accomplished the sharing of information, refinement of project decisions, and identification of opportunities for collaboration. C-CAP and NAB agreed that C-CAP's project reports will now be added to NAB's online database, so that stakeholders can benefit from the novel information gleaned from C-CAP engagement activities, including information on the climate change risks facing C-CAP communities, and the communities' infrastructure needs for climate change adaptation.

RIGHT: C-CAP's Teddy Fong and Jeremy Cole preparing to travel from Kavieng to Nonovaul Islands and Ungakum in PNG to conduct risk mapping and infrastructure prioritization exercises with the communities.

RIGHT: Nonovaul women listening attentively while the C-CAP team explained the risk mapping exercise that they were about to participate in.

Photos by C-CAP.



ABOVE: USAID representative Dani Newcomb talks to the aid post nurse in Launapikruan, Vanuatu - one of the Tafea Province villages C-CAP worked with in March to build climate change awareness and map risk.



ADAPTATION IN MOTION *continued...***In Samoa...**

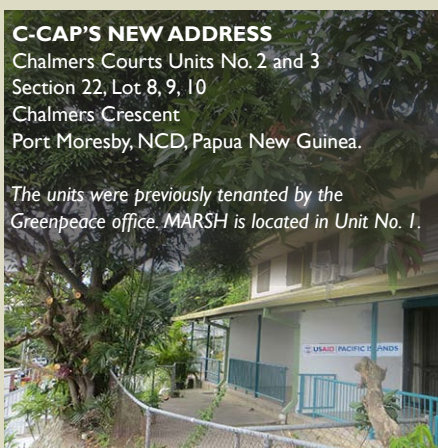
Two-thousand five-hundred miles (4000 kilometers) to the east of New Ireland, three Samoan communities also worked with C-CAP in March to identify their top priority infrastructure needs for climate change adaptation. The communities (Taelefa of Vaa o Fonoti District, and Sala'ilua and Taga communities of Palauli West District) can look forward to practical USAID-funded infrastructure solutions being delivered later this year. Meanwhile, the community of Manase is soon to receive its priority infrastructure: a new shoreline protection system. Working to achieve an optimal outcome, this month C-CAP consulted with the community, experts, government stakeholders to gather feedback on the infrastructure design options prepared by C-CAP's engineering partner, NRW Macallan.

BELOW: (top) In Samoa, C-CAP Deputy Chief of Party, Nicholas Hobgood, discussing the proposed shoreline protection technology with stakeholders from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program and the Ministry for Natural Resources and Environment's Meteorology Division, Geology Section. (bottom) Taga village members engaged in the risk and asset mapping exercise this month. As usually occurs in C-CAP community engagement activities, participants undertook the activity in three groups: men, women, and youth. This arrangement helps to create a comfortable setting for group participation. *Photos by C-CAP.*

**C-CAP'S NEW ADDRESS**

Chalmers Courts Units No. 2 and 3
Section 22, Lot 8, 9, 10
Chalmers Crescent
Port Moresby, NCD, Papua New Guinea.

The units were previously tenanted by the Greenpeace office. MARSH is located in Unit No. 1.

**USAID CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTS SIDE BY SIDE****C-CAP RELOCATES ITS PORT MORESBY HEADQUARTERS**

This month, C-CAP's Papua New Guinea headquarters relocated to down-town Port Moresby, taking up residence beside the office of one other USAID-funded climate change initiative: the Mangrove Rehabilitation for Sustainably-Managed, Healthy Forests (MARSH) Project. This close-quarters situation undoubtedly equates to many a productive discussion—in the conference rooms and verandah, over water coolers and the kettles—between the workers implementing these two important regional projects – a veritable hotspot from climate change planning, problem-solving, and action-mobilizing!

stay informed

**THE COASTAL
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