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Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM)

September 2017

Papua New Guinea Centre for Locally Managed Areas Inc. (PNGCLMA)

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

GRANT TITLE

Scaling Up Women's Participation in Mangrove Management

OBJECTIVES

Empower women to actively participate in conserving and rehabilitating mangrove forests and farm food/income resources within their natural habitats.

LOCATION

Kairuku District, Central Province

GRANT AMOUNT

\$266,255

DURATION

18 months

KEY PARTNERS

Pari Women's Development Association
Central Province Government
Kairuku – Hiri District Administration
Kairuku Rural Local Level Government



This project empowers women to contribute to community decision making. Photo © PNGCLMA

PROJECT SUMMARY

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is home to globally significant biodiversity in terrestrial and marine ecosystems. PNG has extensive coral reefs and associated near shore ecosystems and extremely high coral and reef fish diversity. The majority of people living on the coast and islands make their living as subsistence farmers and fishers and depend on marine resources for their survival. With a rapidly growing population living on the coast, there is significant pressure on coastal and marine resources.

Climate change predictions include sea level rise and periods of more intense storms. Marine and coastal ecosystems' ability to cope with these impacts are diminished when they are already degraded. Ecosystems that are healthy have a greater chance of surviving and recovering from climate-related impacts. Likewise, communities that have diverse sources of food and income including a variety of healthy and abundant marine resources are better able to cope and adapt in the face of climate change and variability.

Women make up half of the population in the coastal communities yet societal norms restrict them from actively participating in community decision-making. This project focuses on empowering women to contribute to decision-making within traditional structures. Women's participation in resource management is crucial in the protection of biodiversity for food security, income and environmental resilience.

ABOUT THE GRANTEE

PNGCLMA was officially registered in 2009 as the coordinating organization of the Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) Network for communities and practitioners in PNG. In 2011, a majority of marine resource management organizations and agencies in PNG formed a Learning and Training Network (LTN) and mandated PNGCLMA as the secretariat. This is the official LTN for the PNG Marine Program in partnership with the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) Secretariat within the Conservation and Environmental Protection Authority (CEPA).

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ABOUT THE FUND

The Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM), is a grant-making facility funded by the U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and administered by Partners for Global Research and Development, LLC (PGRD) that assists twelve Pacific Island countries to reduce long-term vulnerabilities associated with climate change. PACAM awards grants to civil society organizations in support of climate change adaptation measures and related "co-benefits", such as livelihoods enhancement, improved health, food security, disaster risk reduction, or sustainable natural resources management.

In addition to building climate resiliency, the Pacific-American Climate Fund, through the awarded grants, strengthens the managerial and financial capacity of civil society organizations. The countries in which PACAM operates are: Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1. Train at least 45 female and male community leaders on equal participation in decision-making regarding mangrove forests and food resource management
2. Identify and manage at least three food/income resources from the mangroves within their natural habitats
3. Conduct a coastal and marine resource assessment establishing the baseline for mangroves and other resources to guide the planning for a No Take Area

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Women participating actively in decision-making for mangrove forest and food management
2. Most members of the communities actively involved in the restoration of degraded mangroves and sustainable management of food/income resources
3. Lessons learned from this project to inform district and provincial policies and gain support for long-term sustainability for mangrove management in Central Province

