

THE COASTAL  
COMMUNITY  
ADAPTATION PROJECT

# C-CAP NEWSLETTER

Helping Pacific  
Island Communities  
Adapt to a  
Changing Climate  
September 2014

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## USG Delegation Joins Advocates at United Nations Conference: “Island Choices, Global Voices”

*USAID highlights contributions to sustainable development in Pacific SIDS, opportunities for collaboration during reception*

USAID/Pacific Islands and C-CAP team members joined the United States Government (USG) delegation and representatives from 114 other countries from 1–4 September in Apia, Samoa, at the third United Nations International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The conference was the first-ever SIDS event held in the Pacific Islands region. Representatives gathered to raise awareness and channel support for SIDS' efforts to achieve sustainable development.

The Conference theme, “Island Choices, Global Voices,” draws attention to the need for worldwide support for sustainable development in SIDS. Although climate change is a global threat to sustainable development, SIDS face unique challenges—their remote location and dispersed populations, limited land and natural resources, and susceptibility to natural disasters. C-CAP was pleased to be among the chorus of ‘global voices’ calling

**Continues on Page 2...**



**TEAMING UP:** USAID partners are pictured with part of the U.S. Delegation: Dani Newcomb (first left) U.S. Embassy Philippines, Maurice Knight (fifth from left), Regional Pacific Office Port Moresby, and U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Peter Ganser (third from right) and representatives of Samoan NGO METI.

*Photo by U.S. Embassy Samoa*

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## USG DELEGATION from Page 1...

attention to SIDS' sustainable development challenges during the decadal conference.

The key outcome of the International Conference on SIDS was the unanimous adoption of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action—the SAMOA Pathway. UN member states formally adopted the Pathway, documenting their commitment to support SIDS' efforts to strengthen domestic policies for sustainable development and enable improved access to finance. The Pathway documents the unique challenges of SIDS and provides a blueprint for developed nation investment support to SIDS to foster sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth, climate change adaptation, sustainable energy, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable use of marine resources. In his closing remarks, Samoa Prime Minister and Conference President Tuilaepa Lufesoliai Saele Malielegaoi expressed support for the SAMOA Pathway and conference overall as a “launching pad” to channel resources to sustainably improve the living standards in SIDS communities.



**INFO BOOTH:** Carlo Iacovino, SPREP Climate Change Communication Officer, sits at the SPREP, GIZ, and SPC display table, speaking to a guest.

*Photo by C-CAP*



**GREETINGS:** Ambassador Judith Garber (right) and U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Peter Ganser greet invitees as they arrive at the reception. *Photo by U.S. Embassy Samoa*

The SIDS conference was also an opportunity to demonstrate that the USG is far from just another global voice. USAID and the U.S. Embassy Apia, with C-CAP support, hosted the official USG SIDS reception to share lessons learned from its multimillion-dollar investments in the region and to discuss opportunities for further collaboration in the Pacific. U.S. Chargé d'Affaires (Samoa) Peter Ganser gave poignant remarks, highlighting the need for collaboration to overcome global challenges. “As delegates from around the world converge in Samoa, we will be discussing many issues of great importance to SIDS and more broadly to the world,” he said. “But behind all the discussions, meetings and workshops there is a driving force that unites us and keeps us moving forward: the knowledge that regardless of size or location we are all interconnected.”

In addition to C-CAP, USAID partners including Mangrove Restoration for Sustainably Managed Health Forests (MARSH), Pacific American

Climate Fund (PACAM), Vocational Training and Education for Clean Energy (VOTEC), Secretariat of the Pacific Community/Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (SPC/GIZ) and the Secretariat of Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) hosted information booths at the reception promoting the work of USAID and the U.S. Government to address regional climate change challenges.

C-CAP's Chief of Party Stephen Smith noted that “USAID/C-CAP is pleased to have the opportunity to highlight how the people of America are helping to build SIDS' capacity to incorporate climate adaptation and sustainable development initiatives into community planning.”

USAID Pacific Island Regional Director Maurice Knight also attended the reception and spoke to guests about the growing profile of USAID in the Pacific region.



### SHARING INFORMATION:

C-CAP Chief of Party Stephen Smith chats with University of the South Pacific Campus Director Ruby Va'a at the C-CAP display.

*Photo by U.S. Embassy Samoa*



## Partner community Tubusereia uses skills acquired through C-CAP activities to develop local projects

A 40-minute drive from Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, on a dusty, potholed road is the coastal village of Tubusereia, a partner community of USAID/C-CAP. At first glance, situated on rolling hills, with stunning views of lush mountains and bright blue coastal waters, the village hardly seems to face water scarcity problems. Yet, with an increased frequency of drought due to climate change, and limited access to regular water services, Tubusereia faces chronic water shortages and welcomed a C-CAP intervention.

“Every day our women and girls carry buckets looking for water. Until we improve our water system, we will still be faced with shortage of clean drinking water,” said Tau Peruka, a village council advisor.

Through C-CAP’s risk identification exercise, community members identified access to clean drinking water as their priority need. C-CAP is currently working in Tubusereia to install fifteen 5,000-liter rainwater harvesting catchment tanks to complement drinking water to 910 households.

While Tubusereia will benefit greatly from the increased rainwater storage capacity, community leaders saw the need to rehabilitate old water infrastructure as well. In this regard, in late 2013, C-CAP facilitated the participation of a representative from Tubusereia to attend a proposal writing training for communities, conducted by the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) in collaboration with the Papua New Guinea Office of Climate Change and Development (OCCD).

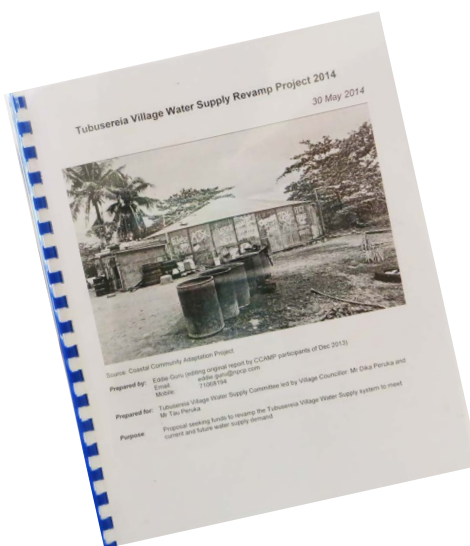
Through skills gained at this training, and using the priorities set and mapping developed through their work with C-CAP, the community worked independently to develop and draft a



**ALL IN THE FAMILY:** These brothers are working to develop their community, Tubusereia. From left, Bobby Peruka, Development Committee member, Tau Peruka, Councilor’s Advisor, and Dika Peruka, Councilor, Tubusereia.

*Photo by USAID*

proposal to secure funding to revamp two old 1970s-era water tanks and piping.



The proposal, dubbed the “Tubusereia Village Water Supply Revamp Project 2014,” is seen as the first step towards attracting potential donors, organizations or the government itself.

“This water project has a personal attachment to my brother, a village councilor, and I because our father

was very involved in village water issues. We are very passionate about helping our community, and we will do our best to do something to address our water needs,” said Mr. Peruka. Through these personal motivations, Mr. Peruka said he is very committed to this project, promising to work with community leaders and partners to see it completed.

“Our challenge now is getting funds to rehabilitate our old water storage tanks, but I am optimistic. We are grateful for the assistance by USAID through C-CAP that has allowed us to secure a more regular supply of water and gain the skills necessary to seek additional funding,” he said. “I am very confident of this partnership and want to make sure that whatever assistance we get, whether in kind or cash, is managed properly so that our people can benefit from it.”

C-CAP partnered with OCCD to work with Tubusereia to help identify and link the project to available local funding and make abundant water supply a reality.

# Young People Encouraged to Take Ownership of Climate Change Issues Affecting Their Communities

*Climate change is not just a buzzword for academics, politicians, and journalists; it affects people all over the world, including youth, in real ways. C-CAP Samoa Country Mobilizer Cecilia Amosa was the project's ambassador to the Samoa Youth Conference and SIDS Youth Forum, precursors to the United Nations Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) Conference held 1–4 September in Apia, Samoa. The event emphasized the impact of climate change on daily lives. After the conference, C-CAP sat down with Ms. Amosa to learn about her experience.*



**GANG'S ALL HERE:** Participants who attended the Samoa Youth Conference.  
Photo by C-CAP

## Q What was the purpose of the Samoa Youth Conference?

To educate Samoan youth on important issues that affect their livelihoods and to prepare them for the SIDS Youth Forum, an international workshop bringing together youth from SIDS all over the world.

The four areas of discussion included: 1) Unemployment and Entrepreneurship; 2) Health and Non Communicable Diseases; 3) Climate Change and Biodiversity; and 4) Water and sustainable energy. Organizations such as UNCP and local ministries gave presentations for each thematic area, followed by discussions. Participants from the Youth Conference produced an outcome statement outlining how these areas affected their lives, which was shared at the SIDS Youth Forum.

## Q How did you apply the outcomes of the Samoa Youth Conference at the SIDS Youth Forum?

The outcome statement from the Samoa Youth Conference was discussed during Geographic Regional and Thematic Area breakout sessions. Participants at the SIDS Youth Forum

produced the eight-page SIDS Youth Declaration, highlighting priorities common to youth in all SIDS, to present at the SIDS Conference itself. The final priorities identified as critical to the livelihoods of young people included: good governance and youth participation; health; climate change and biodiversity; water; ocean and sustainable energy; education; entrepreneurship and employment; and science and technology.

## Q How did you contribute to the conference?

I was asked to facilitate discussions on water and sustainable energy, and present results to conference participants. From my work on C-CAP and educational background, I know how climate change directly affects water resources and was able to draw on examples from C-CAP's water projects in Savaii, Samoa.

## Q What was it like to meet youth from so many different SIDS?

I was surrounded by youth from all over the world: Africa, Mauritius, and the Caribbean. It was amazing to meet other people from far away who share similar concerns. Indeed,

even with geographic differences, challenges with youth unemployment, health, and climate change exist in all SIDS. The priorities outlined in the final outcome statement, common to youth in all SIDS, included all of those identified at by Samoans at the Youth Conference.

## Q How does C-CAP benefit youth?

Through its outreach efforts and community workshops, C-CAP helps educate youth on how climate change affects them. C-CAP's community-led Risk & Asset Mapping and Infrastructure Prioritization processes gives young people a role in decision-making. This opportunity and increased knowledge calls youth to action. Unemployment is one of the main issues faced by youth in the Pacific, and C-CAP's infrastructure activities are creating local construction jobs. Youth unemployment can lead to a host of other problems, so this is a significant benefit.

## Q Now that the conference is over, what are the next steps for SIDS Youth?

*Continues on Page 6...*



# C-CAP Uses Hands-on Approach with Operations & Maintenance Trainings Across Island Communities

**T**he C-CAP team has built dozens of water tanks in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Samoa, and has plans for other interventions elsewhere. A typical tank holds 5,000 liters of water and can support a community of five to six households. With help from the community, C-CAP identifies a site for each tank, mapping out locations that will spread resources equitably.

When one visits Pari Village in PNG, it is easy to imagine how climate change adversely affects the community. Most homes sit on wooden stilts, extending out into the ocean, and could easily fall victim to rising sea levels and extreme weather. Almost counterintuitively, Pari's water resources are stressed by frequent droughts and an irregular city water service. Additionally, the village spring is vulnerable to human and animal waste contamination, and faces potential drying from deforestation.

"Indeed, water is a frequent concern among C-CAP partner communities. Whether communities prioritize infrastructure interventions to address flooding, erosion, storms, or drought, they all face water-related effects of climate change. Some of these effects—increased frequency of drought and salinization of fresh water systems, on top of limited access to reliable water services—have led many communities to identify rainwater catchment tanks as their primary need," said C-CAP PNG Country Mobilizer Isimel Tuembe.

In light of these concerns, C-CAP requires that construction subcontractors take a lead role in conducting operations and maintenance (O&M) trainings. Instructors lead community participants through a step-by-step guide for daily management, cleaning, and simple repairs.



**MR. FIX-IT:** Andrew Taka leads training on maintenance of water tanks.  
*Photos by C-CAP*



On 19 September, members of Pari Village huddled around a large water tank, listening intently to a presentation on water storage. One of C-CAP's construction partners in PNG, Total Construction Solutions (TCS), has installed seven rainwater catchment tanks after Pari community members identified this need through C-CAP's assessment exercises. At the training, TCS Project Manager Andrew Taka gave a hands-on demonstration of the key features of the water systems such as the first flush, a pipe used for filtering dust and debris away from the water storage. He also instructed community members how to check for leaks and damages to gutters, and manage overflow during heavy rains. The trainees represented households that will draw water from each tank and members of the community water committee. A simple manual to reinforce the O&M tech-

niques and the schedule to conduct the regular maintenance activities was also provided. "Nothing will work forever," explained Mr. Taka. "Proper use and regular maintenance is the only way to keep the tanks working well and producing quality water."

C-CAP assisted the community in developing local water resource management committees that assume responsibility for maintenance. Clusters, or neighborhoods within the Pari community, each have a committee that conducts regular maintenance and monitors water use, especially during the dry season.

While C-CAP's approach puts community members in the center of decision making, it also provides the tools and skills necessary for communities to take ownership of their future.

## ADAPTATION IN MOTION

CHECKING WITH C-CAP COMMUNITIES: SOLOMON ISLANDS, FIJI, VANUATU, AND TONGA

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

**In Solomon Islands...** C-CAP further extended into five new Malaita communities: Oiola, Radefasu, Fiu, Bum, and Kwai.

These communities completed the Climate Change Risk and Asset Maps



and identified priority infrastructure needs for climate change adaptation. The five communities identified water supply as their main rehabilitation option followed by: seawall, sanitation, and water drainage. In the following months the team will survey the infrastructure and complete preliminary designs for the projects.

**In Fiji...** C-CAP hosted a bidder conferences for climate-resilient infrastructure projects in the commu-

nities of Buretu and Daku. Interested bidders attended the conference to review the technical requirements of the two infrastructure procurements projects. Planned work will include implementing a riverbank erosion control project in Buretu and installing a series of flood gates to reduce the threat of flooding to C-CAP partner communities in Daku, Vunisinu and Nalase. The tender is expected to be awarded in December with work starting in 2015.



**TAKING PART:** In Iru, the community is involved in the rapid assessment and baseline survey.

*Photo by C-CAP*

**In Vanuatu...** In September, the C-CAP team conducted further assessments for eight C-CAP partner communities in Shefa and Tafea Province. They identified and reached consensus that clean water is their

priority need. C-CAP coordinated with UNICEF's rural water supply officers in a multi-stakeholder meeting to identify water projects and implementers within the government departments and nongovernmental organizations. The team also visited and assessed the project sites in preparation for the technical assessment phase where the engineer will develop designs for the water projects.

**In Tonga...** Tender announcements for four USAID/C-CAP sites on Tongatapu Islands, were published in the local press. This initiates two separate procurement processes to identify bidders and contract work to upgrade community hall to serve as evacuation centers in two villages (Nukulea and Tatamatonga) and install increased water storage capacity in the Sopa and Ahau communities. The procurements are an outgrowth of community consultations and C-CAP infrastructure prioritization that identified community exposure to extreme weather events and water scarcity exacerbated by climate change as the most pressing community vulnerabilities. The tendering process concludes in October with contract award and start work on the projects expected in November.

### YOUNG PEOPLE from Page 4...

For Samoa, the government, through the Division for Youth under the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, has continued its support through Mobilizing Youth for Youth Programs such as hosting the Entrepreneur's Workshop for Youth in December. In October, the Samoan government, through its Legislative Assembly, will invite youth members to participate in the 2nd Parliamentary Youth Program where participants will be introduced to and meet with Parliament members. The Samoa National Youth Council (SNYC) is also pushing through with its Youth and Alcohol Awareness Campaign with a lot of other activities focusing on engaging youth.



**How will you and SIDS youth take what you learned to advance youth goals?**

Samoa, as the host country for the SIDS Conference, was well represented by youth. Sharing experiences and lessons from the forum with local governments, nongovernment organizations (NGOs), and development partners will help create better opportunities for youth. I was impressed with the SYNC activities, so after the Youth Conference, I joined the SNYC to help with their fundraising activities during my free time.





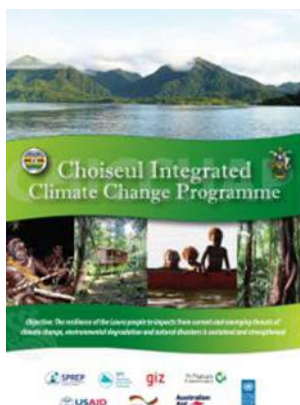
# USAID Around the Pacific

*USAID assistance in the Pacific region covers 12 nations and supports programs that mitigate the negative impacts of global climate change and environmental degradation. USAID has a growing portfolio of climate change-related projects. This new feature of the C-CAP Newsletter captures some additional highlights from other USAID projects to provide readers a broad perspective of how USAID is supporting healthy environments and addressing climate change needs in the region.*

## Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme presented at SIDS

In collaboration with the Solomon Islands government, SPC, SPC/GIZ, SPREP and USAID co-hosted a side event titled

“Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme” at the recent United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) conference which was held in Apia from 1–5 September.

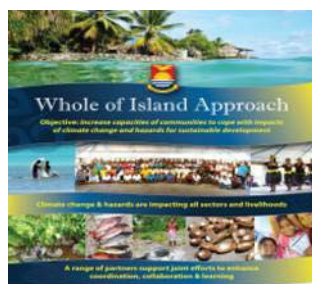


The purpose of the side event was to present the benefits, challenges and lessons of the Choiseul Integrated Climate Change partnership from the perspectives of a country/beneficiary, implementing agency and development partner. It was also an opportunity to showcase the work undertaken by the various projects under the programme.

## USAID supported production of documentary “Whole of Island Approach”

In an effort to support the Office of the President in increasing awareness of the ‘Whole of Island Approach’ in Kiribati, the USAID-funded SPC and SPREP projects, in partnership with

SPC/GIZ, supported the production of a documentary titled, ‘A whole of island approach for resources management and resilient communities.’ The documentary highlights the climate change challenges faced by communities on Abaiang and how coordinated regional development assistance and multi-sectoral partnerships and approaches are supporting communities to manage ecosystems and strengthen resilience based on their island wide development plan. The short version of the documentary can be found on YouTube at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Is9tz-rWV5\\_8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Is9tz-rWV5_8)



## Improving Lives in PNG through Sustainable Energy

The USAID/Pacific Islands’ Vocational Training and Education for Clean Energy program (VOCTEC) is helping to improve the lives of Papua New Guineans (PNG) living in rural areas by improving access to sustainable energy.

“Over 80 percent of PNG’s people live in rural areas without access to energy services. Improving access to energy also improves health, education and gender equality outcomes in rural communities,” said Mr. Gavin

Pereira, Pacific Regional Coordinator of the VOCTEC program. The VOCTEC program assists the PNG University of Technology (Unitech) to train technicians that will size, install and fix solar energy systems in rural areas.

The first training of technicians in PNG was held from 21–25 July. The second training will be a five-day program to train solar technicians in the sizing, installation, maintenance and trouble-shooting of rural solar power systems.

Participants in the training will consist of provincial government energy officers. Selected local companies engaged in Solar Photovoltaics will be recruited through Unitech’s Appropriate Technology for Community Development Institute (ATCDI).



**SOLAR FOCUS:** Participants from the first USAID-funded VOCTEC training held July 21–25.

*Photo by VOCTEC*



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# Around the Pacific

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## USAID/SPC prepares young farmers for climate change impacts in Solomon Islands

In September, the USAID/SPC project in partnership with the Zai Na Tina Centre for Organic Systems (ZNT) and the SPC Youth at Work (YAW) conducted its first activity as part of the Choiseul Farmer Field School on Taro Island, Choiseul Province.



**GETTING THERE:** Participants travel by boat to the Provincial Development Farm for training.

*Photo by SPC*

The workshop was aimed at training young farmers and youth to be climate change adaptation community trainers to prepare communities for the adverse impacts of climate change on food security and agricultural livelihoods. The workshop covered climate change causes and potential impacts on agriculture, adaptation strategies and technologies, and the planning process for community adaptation initiatives, which includes risks or vulnerability assessments, and monitoring and development of an action plan. Finally, the workshop also explored agroforestry as an adaptation technology, different agroforestry systems and the opportunities it presents for livelihoods by young entrepreneurs. Forty-two participants from seven communities in Choiseul Province attended the five-day training from 8-12 September.

### Note from the Editor:

*These short project highlights will be a regular feature in our newsletter highlighting USAID partners activities addressing climate change issues across different sectors throughout the Pacific region. Full details can be obtained either from project websites or by contacting project offices.*

MARSH: [MARSH@iucn.org](mailto:MARSH@iucn.org)

LEAF: <http://www.leafasia.org/>

SPREP: <http://www.sprep.org>

VOC TEC: <http://voctec.asu.edu/>

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