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Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM)

October 2016

Community Centred Conservation Fiji (C3)

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

GRANT TITLE

Building Climate Resilience of Fishing Communities in Macuata

OBJECTIVES

To strengthen the resilience of remote coastal communities through diversifying sustainable livelihoods and raising climate change awareness

LOCATION

Kia Island, Lakeba, Kavewa Island, Naqumu, and Korotubu

GRANT AMOUNT

\$177,000

DURATION

18 months

KEY PARTNERS

- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forest
- Ministry of Education
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- Local resorts and handicraft stores



Beekeeping is one of the alternative livelihoods to be introduced to communities.
Photo © C3

PROJECT SUMMARY

Fiji faces a host of risks to its communities and natural ecosystems from current and future climate change. These risks include more frequent extreme weather events, ocean acidification, and sea level rise. In Macuata province, many families are wholly dependent on fisheries for their livelihood. Macuata's current challenges, such as population pressures, overfishing, pollution, and habitat destruction, will be compounded by climate change impacts. For example, ocean acidification and more severe droughts will further deplete fish stocks.

This project helps the people of Macuata diversify their livelihoods and reduce unsustainable activities such as overfishing and other destructive fishing practices. The project provides the necessary training and capacity building to introduce livelihoods options that are appropriate for the local culture, particularly for women.

Based on assessments of the unique strengths and needs of each site, alternative business enterprises -- e.g. sandalwood production and beekeeping -- will be introduced for each community. The project is partnering with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forest to provide ongoing support to communities to help them pursue sustainable livelihood options. By reducing communities' reliance on fishing, the project will reduce the target population's current vulnerability to climate change impacts and contribute to the sustainable management of marine resources. At the same time, an awareness campaign will enhance coastal communities' understanding of the impacts of climate change.

ABOUT THE GRANTEE

C3 is a growing network of conservation practitioners, living and working at the grassroots level, to conduct scientific studies, implement conservation projects, and build the capacity of future leaders and key institutions in all corners of the world. The organization takes the best practices in the field of sustainable development and applies them in innovative projects. C3 is making strides towards creating a global understanding of community-centred conservation as a dynamic, multi-disciplinary approach capable of delivering results at the local level, with regional and global benefits.

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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 community members in five coastal communities on business planning to introduce climate-resilient livelihoods
2. Provide training and ongoing technical support for selected livelihoods, including beekeeping, sandalwood production, and giant clam farming
3. Distribute materials necessary for community enterprise groups to undertake new income-generating activities
4. Conduct workshop to ensure that experiences are shared between communities, and to revise business plans where necessary
5. Facilitate 3-day exchange visits for at least 50 people from non-project communities to share knowledge and support replication of successful livelihood activities
6. Train community liaisons, youth leaders, and school teachers on the skills needed to run a Reef Rangers program
7. Conduct a Reef Rangers Jamboree to bring together all 150 members for a learning exchange camp focused on climate change and coastal resources
8. Organize at least 10 community awareness events on climate change and 10 on marine resources management

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Fifteen community business plans developed for alternative livelihoods
2. New livelihoods implemented and activities regularly supported by technical officers and community liaisons
3. Lessons learned disseminated and knowledge on climate-resilient livelihoods shared throughout the region
4. At least 10 community liaison officers, 20 youth leaders, and 250 youths trained in effective environmental social marketing methods
5. At least 10,000 people with enhanced awareness of climate change and natural resource management issues
6. Increased participation in climate change adaptation activities; Socioeconomic resilience to climate change improved through increased livelihood diversity in five coastal villages in Macuata with a measurable shift away from dependence on marine resources

