



SPC
Secretariat
of the Pacific
Community

Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States



LESSONS LEARNT MEETING

Colonia, Yap State, FSM

3-4 September, 2015



Table of Contents

List of abbreviations.....	3
A. COMPILATION OF LESSONS LEARNT.....	5
B. REPORT ON LESSONS LEARNT MEETING, 3-4 SEPTEMBER 2015.....	9
Executive summary.....	9
Background.....	11
Introduction.....	11
Meeting objectives.....	11
Meeting agenda.....	11
Meeting participants.....	12
Meeting logistical arrangements.....	12
3 September 2015.....	13
1. Opening and welcome to Yap State.....	13
2. Panel session on “Outer islands need special attention”.....	13
3. Panel session and small group discussions on “Transferring project funds directly to national budgets”.....	15
4. Interactive session and discussion on “How do we improve information sharing and knowledge management?”.....	18
5. Panel session on “Changing community perceptions and attitudes”.....	18
4 September 2015.....	21
6. Panel session on “Building partnerships”.....	21
7. Panel session on “Readiness for new forms of climate finance”.....	22
8. Interactive session and small group discussions on “Ways in which the project’s technical assistance has strengthened adaptation planning and more effective aid delivery”.....	23
9. Panel session on “Applying the lessons learnt to future planning for climate change and disaster risk”.....	25
10. Individual working session on “If starting with a climate change adaptation project in same sector now, what would we have done similarly and what would we have done differently?”.....	26
11. Compilation of lessons learnt.....	27
12. Meeting evaluation and closing.....	27
Annex 1: Meeting agenda.....	29
Annex 2: List of national videos.....	32
Annex 3: List of participants.....	36
Annex 4: Compilation of discussions on “Transferring project funds directly to national budgets”.....	42
Annex 5: Interactive session on the Pacific Climate Change Portal.....	44
Annex 6: Results of session on “What we would have done differently and what we would have done the same”.....	45
Annex 7: Evaluation of the meeting.....	48

List of abbreviations

ACSE	Adapting to Climate Change and Sustainable Energy project
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
BSRP	Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific project
CADRE	Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction and Education
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
C-CAP	Coastal Community Adaptation Project
CCCPIR	Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Islands Region
COP	Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
CROP	Council for Regional Organisations in the Pacific
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
EDF	European Development Fund
ENSO	El Niño Southern Oscillation
EU	European Union
FFD	First flush device
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
GCCA	Global Climate Change Alliance
GCCA: PSIS	Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States project
GEF-STAR	Global Environment Facility System for the Transparent Allocation of Resources
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GSD	Geo Sciences Division (SPC)
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JNAP	Joint National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management
KRA	Key Result Area
LFA	Logical Framework Analysis
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MFEM	Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, Cook Islands
MMR	Ministry of Marine Resources, Cook Islands
NIWA	National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, New Zealand
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NIE	National Implementing Entity to Adaptation Fund
NZAID	New Zealand Agency for International Development
PACC	Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change project
PET	polyethylene terephthalate
PCCFAF	Pacific Climate Change Finance Assessment Framework
PCCP	Pacific Climate Change Portal
PCCR	Pacific Climate Change Roundtable
PEFA	Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability
PEO	Palau Energy Office
PICS	Pacific Island countries
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PMCU	Project Management and Coordination Unit, Niue
PPUC	Palau Public Utilities Corporation
PREL	Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
RONAdapt	Republic of Nauru Adaptation to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan
RTSM	Regional Technical Support Mechanism
SDE	Special Development Expenditure, Tuvalu
SODIS	Solar disinfection of water
SOE	State of the Environment Report

SOPAC	Applied Geosciences and Technology Division of SPC – now GSD
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SRDP	Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific
SRIC-CC	Strengthening the Resilience of our Islands and Our Communities to Climate Change Project (Cook Islands)
TA	technical assistance
TOR	terms of reference
TTV	Te Tarai Vaka (Cook Islands Activity Management System)
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WARD	CROP-CEO Working Arm on Climate Change and Disaster Resilient Development
WASH	Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene
WERI	Water and Environmental Research Institute, University of Guam

A. COMPILATION OF LESSONS LEARNT

The main lesson learnt from the GCCA: PSIS project is that the approach to implement specific on-the-ground climate change adaptation projects combined with (a) mainstreaming climate change into national and sector policies, plans and budgets, and (b) targeted training activities has helped countries tackle the adverse effects of climate change.

Other specific lessons are as follows:

1. Outer islands require special attention because their communities' needs are often greater than those on main islands

- Outer islands face serious transportation constraints which need to be factored into project planning. These include shipping delays, unavailability of cargo boats, sporadic passenger schedules, challenging port facilities – or absence of ports, lengthy travel time to outer islands, high shipping costs, and the likelihood of long recovery times after natural disasters.
- People living on outer islands should not be viewed only as recipients. Interaction between a main island and outer islands is a two-way process, e.g. molasses are transported from the outer islands to Yap, while schools supplies and salt are transported from Yap to the outer islands.
- Regular communication with stakeholders on outer islands, using all available tools e.g. walkie-talkie, VHF radio, mobile phones, is vital as travel time and funds are often wasted when the project team is on-island and the stakeholders are not available.
- Outer islanders have local and traditional knowledge that can be combined with scientific knowledge to build resilience.

2. New project indicators need to be developed, especially for outer islands

- Dollars per capita as an indicator for an outer island project is not always appropriate as there are special factors to consider such as market forces, sources of income and population dynamics.
- Indicators for outer island projects need to be specially designed to:
 - include an in-depth understanding of how outer islands work particularly that economies are largely subsistence-based and that on average less than 10% of the population are income earners;
 - understand that population demographics in outer islands are often very different to the main island;
 - recognise that outer island residents are not just recipients – they are also contributors providing significant non-monetary input to projects; and
 - acknowledge that everyone has the right to certain basic human needs such as clean drinking water.

3. Transferring project funds directly to national budgets builds increased national ownership of project activities; enhances collaboration between the Ministry of Finance and line agencies; allows for improved accountability and transparency; and creates employment for local staff

- Governments must be ready to receive donor support and have appropriate structures in place for project implementation and management and fund disbursement.
- The Ministry of Finance should be the sole recipient of donor funds.
- Strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Finance has to be ongoing and line ministries need to liaise closely with the Ministry of Finance throughout project implementation and to sensitise them about project timelines and implementation schedules.
- Skills of line ministries in national procurement procedures need to be strengthened.
- Currency fluctuations must be factored into project design at the beginning of the project and options explored such as working with national commercial banks to peg the exchange rate at the beginning of a project.
- This modality of project fund disbursement has built capacity within countries, and provided them with track records, which can support their ability to access this type of finance from other sources in the future.

4. Accessing new forms of climate finance is very complicated and the process can strengthen national systems

- Strengthening national systems for accessing new forms of climate finance builds country capacity and promotes development effectiveness.
- Applying to become a national implementing entity under the Adaptation Fund is a long process, resource-intensive and coordination is critical. However, the process creates broad flow on benefits to the country which extend beyond the NIE process, in managing overall finances and accessing other sources of climate finance as a result of strengthening national systems.
- Partners should strive to align to national systems where such systems are well-established and effective and provided partner criteria for sound fiduciary requirements are met.
- Countries need to have appropriate planning priorities in place e.g. Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management and the Tonga Joint National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management.
- Regional organisations e.g. SPC, SPREP, PIFS can provide assistance in accessing new forms of climate finance; particularly through the Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM) however, the process has to be country-owned.

5. Partnerships provide for better utilisation of funds and development effectiveness

- Partnerships are based on mutual trust; they require transparency and accountability; involve considerable communication and human interaction; and are time-consuming.
- Partnership arrangements in the GCCA: PSIS project have provided for more effective delivery of project activities at the national level.
- Partnerships can contribute to exit strategies and sustainability such that project activities continue beyond project life.
- Responsibilities of each partner needs to be clearly defined, balanced and with sufficient flexibility to account for changing conditions.
- In certain situations partners need to be prepared to take tough decisions.

6. Training in proposal preparation using the logical framework approach has strengthened national capacity to prepare project proposals for funding

- Involving government, NGOs, private sector representatives, community leaders and members, youth and women in the training has been one of the key successes. Even if all groups are not involved in the actual proposal writing they can contribute to the project design through the consultative process and take ownership of projects.
- Project proposals (goal, outputs, activities, costing, timeline and monitoring & evaluation) are thorough and uniform.
- The Logical Framework Approach has also been used in post-disaster recovery planning.

7. Technical assistance helps to build the capacity of countries to address climate change challenges

- Conducting, and communicating the results of sound feasibility and design engineering studies for water and coastal infrastructure projects informed project selection, decision making, national environmental assessment requirements and provided information to help convince communities about proposed measures.
- Development of climate change adaptation policies and plans in a systematic and collaborative manner has helped increase collaboration among national agencies.
- Targeted training for special groups such as women and the elderly has enhanced their capacity and provided tangible benefits.
- Conducting national lessons learnt workshops engages stakeholders in assessment and future project planning.

8. Changing community perceptions and attitudes is a lengthy process requiring varied skills

- The goal is to build the resilience of communities rather than increasing their reliance on projects.
- Education and awareness programmes need to be put in place at the commencement of the project, they need to be ongoing, relevant and innovative.
- Awareness activities must be customised for the target audience and especially translated into the local language.
- Combining awareness activities with actions through ‘learning by doing’ is an effective method.
- Using local champions is an effective way of promoting and continuing awareness activities.
- Those doing the awareness need to be knowledgeable about climate change, committed and have the skills to use a variety of approaches for different stakeholders.
- Raising community expectations requires having a level of certainty about eventual delivery.

9. Information sharing and knowledge management are important for the timely dissemination of lessons learnt

- Combining innovation with a diverse range of media is essential for information sharing e.g. television, social media, radio, established national days e.g. Earth Day, World Water Day, noticeboards, posters, cartoons and school competitions.
- Knowledge management through the development of databases is vital to ensure that relevant environment and climate statistics and information are maintained for future use.

- The Pacific Climate Change Portal is a useful information and knowledge source for informing future projects.

10. Additional factors to be included in the design of new projects

- There must be continuity between those involved in the design phase and the implementation team; and selected project site communities must be involved in the design of the project so that ownership is obtained as early as possible.
- New projects need to mirror national priorities and include dedicated finance and communication officers.
- Ensuring visibility of project activities helps showcase the needs of recipient countries and helps donors justify the need for additional funds.
- A good communication strategy is important for the success of the project.

B. REPORT ON LESSONS LEARNT MEETING, 3-4 SEPTEMBER 2015

Executive Summary

The Lessons Learnt Meeting of the Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project was held in Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia from 3-4 September 2015. The meeting was attended by 70 representatives from the nine project countries, development partners and the GCCA: PSIS project team based in the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Discuss lessons learnt and how to share these within the Pacific region;
- Further strengthen collaboration with development partners.

The meeting gives representatives from the participating Pacific Island countries and development partners the opportunity to discuss and analyse the key lessons emerging from the varied activities undertaken by the GCCA: PSIS project. These lessons can inform new and ongoing projects and programmes as well as those in the conceptualisation stage.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to launch the final nine national videos on lessons learnt. These videos were first prepared and shown at the Fourth Steering Committee Meeting held in Niue, 20-27 June 2014. Since that time further footage had been collected, concepts had been further developed, and editing had been completed with the help of the SPC Regional Media Team.

The nine national videos range in length from 5-9 minutes and show in a user-friendly manner some of the national climate change adaptation activities and the challenges faced in each of the nine countries.

The meeting format was varied with panel sessions and small group discussions interspersed with viewing of the nine short videos and several longer videos.

The main lesson learnt from the GCCA: PSIS project is that the approach to implement specific on-the-ground climate change adaptation projects combined with the mainstreaming of climate change into national and sector policies, plans and budgets, and targeted training activities has helped the nine project countries tackle the adverse effects of climate change.

Specific lessons learnt were as follows:

1. Outer islands require special attention because their communities' needs are often greater than those on main islands.
2. New project indicators need to be developed, especially for outer islands.
3. Transferring project funds directly to national budgets builds increased national ownership of project activities; enhances collaboration between the Ministry of Finance and line agencies; allows for improved accountability and transparency; and creates employment for local staff.
4. Accessing new forms of climate finance is very complicated, but can strengthen national systems and have broader benefits to countries.
5. Partnerships provide for better utilisation of funds and development effectiveness.
6. Training in proposal preparation using the Logical Framework Approach has strengthened national capacity to prepare project proposals for funding.

7. Technical assistance helps to build the capacity of countries to address climate change challenges.
8. Changing community perceptions and attitudes is a lengthy process requiring varied skills.
9. Information sharing and knowledge management are important for the timely dissemination of lessons learnt.

The meeting was successful in that it achieved its objectives. Some of the comments from the evaluation forms:

“The more well-coordinated / well-informed partnerships are, the better it is for information to get out.”

“This was useful because the countries face similar challenges and sharing the knowledge they have developed is key to the legacy of the GCCA: PSIS project.”

“It was very good listening to participants from each country. We all seem to have the same problems in terms of communications and attitude.”

“It enabled us to learn how to better collaborate with foreign partnerships in future.”

“It was enlightening to the point that it identified our weaknesses thus enabling a more informed approach.”

BACKGROUND

Introduction

The Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project is a four-year, €11.4 million initiative, supported 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 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.

The Lessons Learnt Meeting of the GCCA: PSIS project was held at the Marina, Colonia, Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), from 3 – 4 September 2015 and followed on directly from the 5th and Final Steering Committee Meeting.

Meeting objectives

The meeting had the following objectives:

1. Discuss lessons learnt and how to share these within the Pacific region.
2. Further strengthen collaboration with development partners.

Meeting agenda

The meeting agenda is presented as Annex 1. The meeting format was varied with panel sessions, small group sessions and viewing of the final nine national videos on lessons learnt. These videos were first prepared and shown at the Fourth Steering Committee Meeting held in Niue, 20 - 27 June 2014. Since then further footage had been collected, concepts had been further developed, and editing had been completed with the help of the SPC Regional Media Team.

The nine national videos range in length from 5-9 minutes and show in a user-friendly manner some of the national climate change adaptation activities and the challenges faced in each of the nine countries. The title and a short description of the content of each video are listed in Annex 2 together with the YouTube link.

Four longer videos relating to (i) observed changes in marine resources in the Cook Islands; (ii) lessons learnt in the water sector in FSM; (iii) solar disinfection (SODIS) of water in Kiribati; and (iv) agroforestry practices in Tuvalu have also been finalised and are included in the list in Annex 2.

Meeting participants

The meeting participants included:

- Participants from each project country;
- Representatives from development partners and other projects:
 - Adapting to Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (ACSE) programme, EU & Deutsche Zusammenarbeit (GIZ / German Cooperation);
 - Australian Embassy;
 - European Union (EU);
 - International Organization for Migration (IOM);
 - Micronesia Challenge;
 - Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS);
 - Pacific Resources for Education and Learning;
 - Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC);
 - Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP);
 - The Nature Conservancy;
 - United States Agency for International Development (USAID);
 - SPC-GCCA: PSIS project team.

The list of participants is presented as Annex 3.

Meeting logistical arrangements

Special thanks are due to the Yap State Government and the FSM National Government for hosting the meeting and the excellent arrangements that were put in place for the meeting. Special thanks are also due to Sean Gaarad and the logistical support team.

3 SEPTEMBER 2015

1. Opening and welcome to Yap State



Opening ceremony, (left to right) Ana Tiraa, Director, Climate Change Cook Islands, and Governor of Yap State, Tony Ganangiyan

The opening and first day of the meeting was chaired by Ana Tiraa, Director, Climate Change Cook Islands. Yap State Governor Tony Ganangiyan opened the Lessons Learnt Meeting by thanking the national government of FSM, the other eight project countries, the EU and other partners for attending the meeting. He noted “Here in Yap we look forward to this Lessons Learnt meeting, not just learning the lessons, but being prepared to get our hands dirty and implement what is discussed at this meeting.”

After the opening, there were introductions from development partners who had recently joined the meeting. (Other participants had already introduced themselves during the Steering Committee Meeting, 31 August – 2 September 2015).

2. Panel session on “Outer islands need special attention”

Moderator: Pasha Carruthers, Climate Change Adviser, GCCA: PSIS Project

Viewing of videos: “Effectively managing marine resources in remote communities in Cook Islands” and “Improving water security for traditional island living in FSM”

Key points from the panellists:

Faoliu Teakau, GCCA: PSIS National Coordinator, Department of Environment, Tuvalu

- Implementation of the agroforestry climate change adaptation project in Tuvalu had experienced similar problems to those shown in the FSM video, specifically weather delays, unavailability of a cargo vessel to serve the outer islands (only passenger vessels were

available and they are presently working to lease a barge from Fiji); no port facilities in the outer islands and the need to lighter materials ashore.

- Some of the project's beneficiaries required training e.g. in the use of the tractor and excavator and it was difficult to arrange transport for the outer islanders to Funafuti for this training.
- To try and build capacity, Farmers Associations were set up in some of the outer islands as a result of this project.
- Use of dollars per capita as an indicator is not very useful in the case of outer island projects, other indicators need to be developed that also include vulnerability.

Melvin Dacillo, Project Management Unit Manager, Ministry of Public Works, Marshall Islands

- The Marshall Islands has 29 atolls spread over a large area of ocean and transportation to the atolls is a major challenge. This challenge was identified in the project design document.
- The Ministry of Public Works has a boat with a ramp and this was used to transport the heavy equipment needed to construct the causeway, however, it was still necessary to wait for calm waters for unloading.
- The coastal protection (causeway) project required the transportation of armour stones from a borrow site several kilometres away. Safety measures had to be put in place as the heavy trucks had to be driven through the community.
- There is a need to build coastal engineering expertise within the Ministry of Public Works; a project engineer was hired to implement the causeway project.
- Indicators need to be specific to the national context.

Teariki Rongo, Project Manager, Ministry of Marine Resources, Cook Islands

- Communication with outer islands presents serious challenges and is very time consuming; and sometimes when technical staff arrive, the 'right' people are not available.
- People need to be aware of delays and delivery constraints.
- Ideally project managers need to be involved in the project design phase.
- Irregular shipping schedules and high travel costs are serious challenges.
- There is a need to use other indicators besides the dollars per capita indicator that take into account the national context e.g. in the case of the Cook Islands project, the market price for pearls is one factor to be included.

Alissa Takesy, Assistant Secretary, Department of Resources and Development, FSM

- FSM covers 1,600 miles of ocean from east to west and has a vast exclusive economic zone.
- Government structures are complex, and include traditional councils of chiefs as well as state and national governments.
- There are two national vessels and access by sea may take up to a month of travel time to some of the more remote islands.
- In the outer islands the economy is largely (90%) subsistence with government workers including teachers being the only income earners, so in this context a dollars per capita indicator is not representative of the impact of a project.

- Interaction between a main island and outer islands is a two-way process, e.g. molasses are transported from the outer islands to Yap, while schools supplies and salt are transported from Yap to the outer islands.



Alissa Takesy (left) and Raymond Tamow presenting some of the challenges of project implementation in the outer islands of Yap State, FSM

Discussion

- Transportation costs and constraints have to be fully factored into project design for outer island projects.
- Community stakeholders and beneficiaries need to be involved in project design.
- To be resilient, we need to be innovative and this requires working with traditional partners to fully utilise their local and traditional knowledge.
- Indicators for outer island projects need to:
 - be based on an in-depth understanding of how outer islands work;
 - understand that population demographics in outer islands are often very different to the main island;
 - recognise that outer island residents are not just recipients – they are also contributors; and
 - recognize that everyone has the right to certain basic human needs such as clean drinking water.

3. Panel session and small group discussions on “Transferring project funds directly to national budgets”

Moderator: Simone Stevenson, Ocean Management Officer, PIFS

Viewing of videos: “Strengthening coastal resilience in the outlying atolls of the Marshall Islands” and “Securing safe drinking water in Nauru”

Key points from the panellists:

Ywao Elanzo, GCCA: PSIS National Coordinator, Marshall Islands

- Countries in the North Pacific use US fiduciary standards.
- The currency fluctuations meant that the available funds for the adaptation project decreased over the project's timespan.
- The GCCA: PSIS project built capacity in procurement and the financial acquittal process in the Ministry of Finance.
- The project had a beneficial economic impact for the country.

Kiatoa Tio, Project Finance Officer, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Kiribati

- GCCA: PSIS project funds are sent directly to the Ministry of Finance and then disbursed to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services who are responsible for implementing the project.
- This has generally worked well but there have been delays with getting warrants to transfer the funds and this has at times delayed project activities.
- Financial reporting has been done by Ministry of Health and Medical Services and this has built national capacity.

Sheik Irfaan, Finance Officer, GCCA: PSIS Project

- SPC received the funds directly from the EU through several tranches.
- Funds for the climate change adaptation project and the National Coordinator are transferred directly to the Ministry of Finance. This was a lesson learnt from previous SPC projects which had transferred funds to line ministries and there had been some cases of misappropriation, hence the policy now is to always transfer funds directly to the Ministry of Finance.
- There is a clear separation of duties in that line ministries are responsible for implementation and the Ministry of Finance is responsible for issuing funds; it is the same with SPC which has a finance department and separate divisions which are responsible for implementation.
- Regarding currency fluctuations, SPC was advised by EU to average out the rate.
- One lesson learnt for SPC through this project is to keep all agreements with the countries in Euros for future EU-funded projects.

Martin Chong, Programme Manager, Infrastructure and Natural Resources, EU Delegation, Fiji

- Transferring funds to the Ministry of Finance for project implementation as partly done by the GCCA: PSIS project is in effect similar to the Budget Support modality of the EU.
- Some countries will need to embark on public finance management reforms before they can become eligible for Budget Support. Sector Budget Support or Sector Reform Contracts is likely to be used in some Pacific Island countries in the future (EDF11 onwards) and requires achievement of set eligibility criteria including: national/sector policies and reforms; stable macroeconomic framework; Public Financial Management; and transparency and oversight of budget.
- Sector Budget Support requires close collaboration between the Ministry of Finance and other line ministries.

Discussion

- Countries need to take ownership of their Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) and Public Finance Management System.
- Applying for and obtaining accreditation as a National Implementing Entity to the Adaptation Fund will help countries access new and traditional forms of funding.
- Contingency funds are for unforeseen circumstances including currency fluctuations; use of contingency funds requires prior approval.
- SPC has discussed with the commercial bank in Fiji the concept of pegging the exchange rate at the start of the project, so that currency fluctuations over the course of the project are avoided.
- The traditional practice in FSM is to provide ‘gifts’ when visiting communities and it is difficult to acquit such gifts using standard procedures. A reasonable amount can be factored into community consultations.
- A key message from the discussions is to continually build the capacity of the Ministry of Finance.

Participants then divided into small groups to discuss:

- What were the benefits of transferring project funds directly to national budgets?
- What are the challenges?
- Experiences from other donors.
- Procurement issues.
- Roles of project finance officers and national coordinators.

The results from these discussions have been compiled in Annex 4. A brief overview is as follows:

The benefits include increased national ownership of project activities; better collaboration between the Ministry of Finance and line agencies; accountability and transparency; and employment of local staff.

The main challenges were: currency fluctuations; delays in government approval systems combined with short project timeframes; and political influence.

Experiences with other donors showed that meeting different donor requirements and criteria is a challenge for many countries; there is significant variation between donors in the amount of flexibility they have to accommodate project changes; and general agreement that the Ministry of Finance should be the sole conduit for donor funds.

The main procurement issues related to following national procedures which many felt were too long and complicated; and the need to sensitise counterparts in the Ministry of Finance about project timelines and implementation schedules.

There was considerable variation among national coordinators as to their roles and responsibilities – in Niue the national coordinator was also responsible for implementation and financial management of the climate change adaptation project, while in the other countries project and finance officers were appointed. All national coordinators were responsible for consistent, regular and accurate reporting; needed to develop a close relationship with the target community; and had to be committed to complete the project.

4. Interactive session and discussion on “How do we improve information sharing and knowledge management?”

Moderator: Tagaloa Cooper, GCCA: PSIS Climate Change Coordination Adviser, SPREP

It had been planned to conduct an interactive session using the Pacific Climate Change Portal (PCCP), see Annex 5 for details. However, internet connectivity at the meeting venue was inadequate for this exercise.

Using a ‘show of hands’ the following approximate statistics were compiled:

- About 60% of participants indicated they have heard of the PCCP.
- About 50% of the participants who have heard of the PCCP indicated they have accessed the PCCP.
- About 10% of the participants who have heard of the PCCP have actually used the PCCP.

Countries then worked in groups to discuss:

- How is your country sharing information from the project internally and externally to different target audiences?
- In 5 years’ time, where would you go to if you were looking for information on the impacts of this project?
- What would you like to do to share information and knowledge that you haven’t had a chance to do?

Most countries identified mentioned the following information sharing modalities:

- Social media
- National and international press
- Community events
- European Year of Development events (2015)
- Stakeholder consultations
- National committees
- Libraries belonging to government ministries and national libraries
- National portals, websites (including cap4dev)
- School competitions
- Regional meetings of CROP partners and other regional and international meetings / conferences
- Peer reviewed journals

In addition several countries noted that the information gathered needs to be included in government statistics so as to inform policy.

5. Panel session on “Changing community perceptions and attitudes”

Moderator: Charlene Mersai, Senior Environmental Planner, Office of Environmental Response and Coordination, Palau

Viewing of videos: “Buying time with better coastal management in Tonga”; “Responding to climate sensitive health risks in Kiribati” and “SODIS in Kiribati”



Panellists (from left to right): Tebikau Noran, Claudette Wharton, Pesalili Tu'iano, Zhiyad Khan, Charlene Mersai (Moderator)

Key points from the panellists:

Claudette Wharton, GCCA: PSIS National Coordinator, Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment, Nauru

- In Nauru we communicated in different ways with the various stakeholders, from government to communities, and built ownership of the project among the different groups.
- Once people understand the message then they are more likely to accept change.

Pesalili Tu'iano, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Infrastructure, Tonga

- In Tonga extensive consultations were conducted with the communities at the design and implementation phases. This was to build ownership among the project's principal beneficiaries.
- This has been successful to some extent, since at the beginning of the process the communities wanted to see seawalls built, but through many consultations, involving coastal experts and the Joint National Action Plan (JNAP) Technical Working Group, the communities were convinced to endorse the alternative designs combining hard and soft engineering measures. "When we first discussed this project, the town officers were united on the idea of seawalls but after we were advised about the study we agreed to the new design and now we are happy with this work", Siji Lamipeti, Town Officer, Makaunga, Tonga said in a video shown at the Steering Committee Meeting on 31 August 2015.

Tebikau Noran, Health Inspector, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Kiribati

- The project in Kiribati links health and water.
- When SODIS was first introduced to the Kiribati National Expert Group on Climate Change there was some scepticism. However, after several consultations and a scientific study, they became convinced and now SODIS is being implemented in Kiribati and incorporated into the Year 6 school curriculum, and also into the Health Strategic Plan.

- Working with communities requires special skills to explain new ideas and concepts simply and to build ownership so that people develop their own solutions. The use of water champions was successful in rolling out SODIS in Kiribati.

Zhiyad Khan, Communications Assistant, GCCA: PSIS Project

- Communication is not an added extra, like icing on a cake, but rather the core of an organization's or a project's success.
- Communication activities need to be in place at the commencement of the project.
- Sharing information with communities has to be clear and not too technical, in the appropriate local language and include visuals, e.g. the education awareness materials for the project in Yap are very clear and simple and in the local language (which is different to Yapese); similarly in Marshall Islands, a Marshallese glossary of climate change terms is being developed which will help in explaining difficult scientific terms to communities and school students alike.
- Key messaging is important – What is it that you want to change? What do you want the target audience to know? What do you want them to feel? What perception do you want to create? What do you want them to do? – and what action do you want to see as a result of your key messages?

Discussion

- In Tonga a students' oratory competition on building climate change resilience was very successful and was aired on Tonga TV and radio. This is one way the project was able to reach out to a wider audience.
- In FSM translating climate change concepts and terms to different languages is a significant challenge.
- In some countries, e.g. Palau, international travel by climate change officers is often perceived as unnecessary.
- In the Marshall Islands it is necessary to also work with traditional leaders during all stages of project implementation.
- Humility is an important characteristic of many Pacific cultures and has to be taken into account when building project visibility.
- Solid communication plans incorporating local champions are essential.
- Education and awareness building is a lengthy process; in Tuvalu monthly radio programmes have proved useful.
- In the Cook Islands science is often not respected and it is necessary to use real data and illustrate its relevance during demonstrations to the community.
- Involvement of communities in project activities is an important way of getting messages understood.

4 SEPTEMBER 2015

Chairperson: Mataio Tekinene, Director, Department of Environment, Tuvalu

6. Panel session on “Building partnerships”

Moderator: Clinton Chapman, Climate Change Adviser, GCCA: PSIS Project

Viewing of videos on “Rainwater capture and storage systems – Partnerships to strengthen Niue’s water security” and “From coconuts to fresh water in Palau”

Key points from the panellists:

Xavier Matsutaro, Assistant Climate Change Coordinator, Office of Environmental Response and Coordination, Palau

- In the preparation of the Palau Climate Change Policy we worked with a range of partners including community, national and international partners.
- The outcome was a rich dialogue, and a 90-page holistic document, and the challenge became how to narrow this down.
- There were limited local resources, with many people wearing multiple ‘hats’. The approach was to maximise local resources and supplement where necessary.
- Palau has also engaged in a public-private partnership with the National Development Bank of Palau to trial a water conservation incentives scheme with interested homeowners.

Haden Talagi, GCCA: PSIS National Coordinator, Niue

- The rainwater harvesting project in Niue initially involved the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project with Global Environment Facility funds. Further funds were then obtained from the Australian Government for a PACC+ project. Then with the help of the GCCA: PSIS Project, the project was up-scaled and redesigned to cover all 14 villages. With additional partners coming on board at different stages, the project went through three re-designs.
- The combined funds enabled a water tank manufacturing facility to be built in Niue which resulted in considerable savings. The facility can be used in the future for the manufacture of septic tanks, garbage bins and kayaks.
- Workers were upskilled to operate the facility.
- The project was designed so that households would supply their own gutters and fascia boards. However, over the years there has been some misinterpretation of that message such that a few home owners are still expecting the government to provide everything. The project is slowly trying to change this attitude and to move away from a culture of government dependency.

Gillian Cambers, Project Manager, GCCA: PSIS Project

- Different types of partnerships have been used successfully in the GCCA: PSIS project. These have included:
 - Formal partnerships such as between SPC and SPREP for the position of a project Climate Change Coordination Officer stationed in SPREP; and the partnership between GCCA: PSIS and the Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island

Region (CCCPIR) programme to support the development of the Palau Climate Change Policy.

- Informal partnerships such as between GCCA: PSIS and the New Zealand National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) to procure and ship laboratory equipment and supplies to Kiribati; and between GCCA: PSIS and the Fiji National University Medical School to provide specialized training in laboratory and food safety to environmental health officers in Kiribati.
- On occasions attempts at partnerships did not work e.g. in Nauru an attempt was made to partner with the USAID-funded Coastal Community Adaptation Project (C-CAP) to provide a large water storage tank in Nauru. Procurement difficulties and a shortage of time made this partnership untenable.
- Partnerships help the countries in many ways such as involving a wider number of stakeholders and providing opportunities for economies of scale. Especially at the present time there are so many donors and development partners working in the field of climate change adaptation that in some cases it may just overwhelm the countries' capacity. Partnerships are one of the main ways to address this situation.
- Partnerships are usually beneficial but they require considerable time and involve additional work.

Discussion

- USAID operates from the Philippines and provides funding to 77 communities in the Pacific through the C-CAP project. The C-CAP project, which will finish soon, will be followed by a larger project. Other work has focused on disaster risk management especially in the Marshall Islands during the drought in 2013, and in FSM following Typhoon Maysak in 2015. They are moving towards building partnerships so as to help the countries build back better.
- Mutual trust and transparency are vital for making partnerships work.
- A clear process for communication, with roles and responsibilities articulated early, helps avoid confusion throughout the process.
- Flexibility and supportive in-country teams are also necessary for successful partnerships.
- Partnerships may at times require partners to take difficult decisions and change direction.
- It takes time to make partnerships work and all parties need to want to make the partnership successful.
- Palau and Niue panel representatives said that they were happy with the partnership with SPC.

7. Panel session on “Readiness for new forms of climate finance”

Moderator: Simone Stevenson, Ocean Management Officer, PIFS

Key points from the panellists:

Ana Tiraa, Director, Climate Change, Cook Islands

- In December 2014, with support from the GCCA: PSIS and a consultant from the Frankfurt School of Business, Cook Islands submitted an application to become a National Implementing Entity to the Adaptation Fund.
- The long and complex process provided an opportunity to strengthen their own national systems.

- The Adaptation Fund Board requested further information and Cook Islands will be making a final submission in September 2015. Part of this final submission involves further embedding the Cook Islands Activity Management System (Te Tarai Vaka [TTV]) across government and the GCCA: PSIS project is providing further support for this process especially for user training and online communication tools.
- Cook Islands are now engaging with the Green Climate Fund and the work with the Adaptation Fund is helping in this process.
- The process has to be country-owned and use national systems; it is a lengthy process (3 years to date to get to this stage), but creates broader flow on benefits for the country.

Manu Manuofetoa, GCCA: PSIS National Coordinator, Climate Change Division, Tonga

- Tonga had planned to access the Adaptation Fund through UNDP. But because the Fund had already reached its 50% cap, they turned to SPREP. However, there had been challenges with the scope of their proposal and the proposal is now being revised.
- Tonga is also drafting a readiness application to the Green Climate Fund. They also have in place plans with costed activities for the Tonga Energy Roadmap, the National Infrastructure Plan and the JNAP.
- The Tonga National Climate Change Fund was started with seed money from the Asian Development Bank under the Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience. Legislation has now been prepared for this fund with the support of the GCCA: PSIS project such that the fund can provide for upscaling and maintenance of climate change projects/activities. This also contributes to the GCCA: PSIS project's exit strategy.

Discussion

- FSM noted that it was a very long and complicated process to access the Adaptation Fund for project funds; they are also preparing a readiness application to the Green Climate Fund.
- Tuvalu noted they were in the process of applying for a project through the Green Climate Fund and had been advised that further studies were needed.
- Cook Islands had received funding for a project from the Adaptation Fund and the process had been quite rapid with the help of a local consultant. However, the main issue was the complicated reporting required for the three different levels: national level, UNDP and the Adaptation Fund; this was one of their reasons for applying to become a National Implementing Entity to the Adaptation Fund.
- SPREP will shortly have a Green Climate Fund Adviser; the Regional Technical Support Mechanism can be used to help countries develop proposals.
- Pacific Islands have representatives on the boards of the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund and these should be utilised.

8. Interactive session and small group discussions on “Ways in which the project’s technical assistance and training has strengthened adaptation planning and more effective aid delivery”

Moderator: Sanivalati Tubuna, Climate Change Adviser, GCCA: PSIS Project

Viewing of video on “Promoting local food production in Tuvalu”

Key benefits from the training in proposal preparation using the Logical Framework Approach:

- Better understanding of how to write project proposals.
- Need for thorough planning and the setting of priorities.
- Project identification through use of the problem tree and solution tree.
- Standard, uniform process.
- Realisation of the need to include all stakeholders, including communities, from the beginning.
- Importance of monitoring progress and whether the goal is achieved.



Meeting participants sharing their findings about the Logical Framework Approach

Key ways in which the training in proposal preparation using the Logical Framework Approach has been used for other projects and activities:

- Cook Islands: Involving community members in the design of their own projects.
- FSM: In Yap State, the approach was used to help communities plan their projects. Community members may not write the proposals themselves, but they can be part of the process of conceptualisation and planning.
- Nauru: The approach was used in the development of the coastal erosion programme funded by the government.
- Palau: Following the training the women's group prepared and submitted a project proposal.
- Tonga: In design of budgets for projects and activities.
- Tuvalu: The Logical Framework Approach was useful in identifying an approach to the Cyclone Pam recovery effort; it was also used in the training provided by SPREP in environmental impact assessment.

Participants worked in country groups to identify the most successful activity from the project's policy, planning and training activities taking into account the need to include special groups such as women, youth and the elderly.

- Cook Islands: The collection of data and information from community members, especially senior citizens, about changes on the ground helped the understanding of climate change science.
- FSM: The national lessons learnt workshop held in August 2015 involved all stakeholders including community members and provided an opportunity to share experiences from the project.

- Marshall Islands: The feasibility study into coastal protection measures in Woja Island, Aililnglaplap informed the decision making process about priorities for the site and the environmental assessment process.
- Nauru: The preparation of the Republic of Nauru Adaptation to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (RONAdapt) plan which clearly articulated Nauru's plans for climate change to all stakeholders.
- Niue: The two rounds of training in proposal preparation using the Logical Framework Approach, which included all stakeholders including the private sector, youth groups, and village councils and helped the development of community projects as well as identify gaps in existing projects.
- Palau: Consultative process for the development of the climate change policy, which involved all stakeholders and although time-consuming built respect for the process among everyone involved.
- Tonga: The involvement of the community in the feasibility study and design for the coastal protection works which helped people change their minds from requesting a seawall to the acceptance of the alternative measures involving hard and soft coastal engineering measures.
- Tuvalu: Training for women in home gardening, composting, preparation of seedlings, followed by the home gardening competition.

9. Panel session on “Applying the lessons learnt to future planning for climate change and disaster risk”

Moderator: Gerald Zackios, Director, SPC North Pacific Regional Office

Key points from the panellists:

Martin Chong, Programme Manager, Infrastructure and Natural Resources, Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific

- EU has 6-year funding cycles through the European Development Fund (EDF).
- Lessons learnt here can be used to guide projects funded through EDF 11 and future EDF cycles.
- EU would like to see a more integrated approach with CROP agencies working together.

Alvaro Luna (GIZ), Coordinator, Adaptation to Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Programme

- Lessons learnt are vital for the planning of future projects so as to provide for the efficient use of resources and to avoid repeating past mistakes.
- Lessons learnt from the GCCA: PSIS project have already been used in the ACSE project particularly for the development of concept notes and project design documents.
- A good communication strategy is important for the success of the project, as well as to satisfy donor needs.
- It is important to differentiate between information and knowledge and to develop an information and knowledge management system that will include the data and the lessons learnt.

Simone Stevenson, Ocean Management Officer, PIFS

- PIFS mandate with climate change in the regional context is in relation to finance, particularly:
 - The Pacific Climate Change Finance Assessment Framework (PCCFAF) assesses the position and options for Pacific Island countries in accessing various forms of climate financing available, as well as provides concrete recommendations for improving access and development effectiveness.
 - Pacific Experiences with Modalities Relevant for Climate Change Financing booklet, which provides very short case studies based on various experiences of countries with different modalities of climate finance, can serve as a starting point when looking to finance particular projects or increase access to climate finance overall.

Mohammed Khan, Team Leader, Pacific Programme, USAID

- The free flowing sharing of information from this meeting is very helpful to map out future USAID programmes.
- USAID has a 5-year cycle.
- The lessons learnt can help in designing other assistance modalities such as joint training activities between USAID and CROP agencies.
- More involvement of women is one area where USAID looks to improve in all its future projects.

Discussion

- Countries are commended for the visibility they have achieved so far and this needs to be extended to the international settings such as through COP 21 and the European Year for Development (2015).
- New projects need to mirror national priorities and to include dedicated finance and communication officers.
- The Pacific Climate Change Portal is a useful information and knowledge source for informing future projects.
- The Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL) expressed interest in sharing information and resources with other agencies.
- Further funds are required to sustain the GCCA: PSIS activities; GCCA+ may be one option; countries need to be prepared for such opportunities should they arise.
- Some countries felt that the money spent on visibility could be better spent on on-the-ground activities. However, development partners pointed out that visibility of project activities helps showcase the needs of recipient countries and helps donors justify the need for additional funds.
- The non-inclusion of certain countries in regional projects supported by different donors was also a matter of discussion.

10. Individual working session on “If starting with a climate change adaptation project in the same sector now: what would we have done similarly and what would we have done differently?”

Moderator: Pasha Carruthers, Climate Change Adviser, GCCA: PSIS Project

Participants worked individually to address five main questions. The results have been compiled and are presented in Annex 6. The main responses are presented below.

1. What did not go as planned with your GCCA: PSIS project?

These included specific national activities that had not been completed in full, challenges and delays with implementing activities especially in outer islands, and cost overruns.

2. Lessons learnt, if starting the GCCA: PSIS project now, what would you do differently?

Countries would have improved many aspects of project planning and included transportation scheduling and constraints at an earlier stage. They would have started education and awareness activities at the beginning of the project.

3. Lessons learnt, if starting the GCCA: PSIS project now, what would you do similarly?

Many of the responses were country-specific, more general responses related to the fact that GCCA: PSIS reporting requirements were much simpler than other projects and that more remained to be done in the specific sectors chosen.

4. What are the GCCA: PSIS project achievements you are most proud of?

Again these were mainly country-specific and covered new policies and plans that had been put in place, new infrastructure, training, community involvement and the fact that there had been a direct and marked improvement in the lives of communities.

5. How will you share the lessons learnt with other relevant stakeholders?

Besides listing various communication tools, participants noted that the project would become a model for others to follow and exchange visits would be another way to share the lessons learnt.

11. Compilation of lessons learnt

The lessons learnt were compiled throughout the meeting and are listed in Part A of this report.

12. Meeting evaluation and closing

Participants completed individual evaluation forms; these have been compiled in Annex 7. Most of the sessions were scaled as very high or high by the 35 participants who completed evaluation forms.

The session with the highest rating was “Outer islands need special attention”. Some of the comments from the participants were as follows:

“Outer islands and their people are forgotten about way too often.”

“Based on challenges that stretch beyond logistics, outer islands have unique circumstances and special needs.”

“Logistical issues may be difficult for those who have not experienced them to understand.”

The last session of the meeting on “If starting with a climate change adaptation project in the same sector now: what would we have done similarly and what would we have done differently?” received the second highest rating.

Selected comments from this session were as follows:

“I believe we should always look ahead in our projects, thus being prepared for whatever may come.”

“Nice to reflect and very motivating to hear what others are proud of.”

Comments about the meeting in general provided some useful insights.

“The panels were very interactive and allowed for all countries to share and contribute their lessons learnt. Panellists chosen were great and practical with the challenges shared.”

“It was a great opportunity to learn from other teams – good balance of presentation and activity. Everyone seemed engaged. I learnt a lot from all the teams. There was meaningful dialogue as feedback and feed ‘forward’ for next steps.”

“The more well-coordinated / well-informed partnerships are, the better it is for information to get out.”

“This was useful because the countries face similar challenges and sharing the knowledge they have developed is key to the legacy of the GCCA: PSIS project.”

“It was very good listening to participants from each country. We all seem to have the same problems in terms of communications and attitude.”

“It enabled us to learn how to better collaborate with foreign partnerships in future.”

“It was enlightening to the point that it identified our weaknesses thus enabling a more informed approach.”

The meeting objectives were met.

The meeting was closed with a dinner hosted by the FSM National Government and Yap State Government.

Annex 1: Agenda

Lessons Learnt Meeting, Marina, Colonia, 3-4 September 2015 Objectives: (i) What lessons have we learnt? (ii) How to apply and use the lessons learnt to build a resilient Pacific	
Thursday 3 September 2015	
8.30 – 9.00	Review of Statement of Record from Steering Committee Meeting
9.00 - 9:15	1. Short Opening, Introductions and Welcome to Yap State
<i>Chairperson 3rd September 2015: Ana Tiraa, Director, Climate Change Division Cook Islands</i> <i>Assistant to the Chairperson: Sanivalati Tubuna, GCCA: PSIS Climate Change Adviser</i>	
9.15 – 10.30	2. Outer islands need special attention - panel session Moderator: Pasha Carruthers, GCCA: PSIS Climate Change Adviser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viewing of Cook Islands and FSM videos Panel: Representatives from Cook Islands, FSM, Marshall Islands and Tuvalu Discussion topics to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constraints and challenges of implementing projects in outer islands. Is it meaningful to use \$ per capita as an indicator in an outer island?
10.30 – 10.45	Morning tea
	Housekeeping matters
10.45 – 1.00	3. Transferring project funds directly to national budgets – panel and small group discussion session Moderator: Simone Stevenson, Ocean Management Officer, PIFS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viewing of Marshall Islands and Nauru videos Panel: European Union, Sheik Irfaan, GCCA: PSIS, representative from Kiribati and Marshall Islands Energiser Small group discussions (mixed country groups) and report back in plenary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What were the benefits What are the challenges Experiences from other donors Procurement issues Roles of project finance officers and national coordinators.
1.00 - 2.00	Lunch
2.00 – 3.00	4. How do we improve information sharing and knowledge management – interactive session and discussion Moderator: Tagaloa Cooper, GCCA: PSIS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interactive session on Pacific Climate Change Portal Discussion on how are countries already sharing the project information and how would they like to improve this

3.00 – 4.30	<p>5. Changing community perceptions and attitudes – panel session</p> <p>Moderator: Charlene Mersai, Senior Environmental Planner, Office of Environmental Response and Coordination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viewing of Tonga, Kiribati, SODIS videos <p>Panel: Representatives from Kiribati, Tonga, Nauru, Zhiyad Khan, GCCA: PSIS Communications Assistant</p> <p>Discussion topics to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing perceptions and attitudes Messaging, understanding and misconceptions Communications, visibility and ownership
4.30 - 4.45	<p>6. Recap Day 1: Summary of key lessons learnt: Titilia Rabuatoka, GCCA: PSIS</p> <p>Quick evaluation</p>
Evening	Participants on their own
Friday 4 September 2015	
<p><i>Chairperson 4th September 2015: Mataio Tekinene, Director, Department of Environment, Tuvalu</i></p> <p><i>Assistant to the Chairperson: Tagaloa Cooper, GCCA: PSIS</i></p>	
9.00 – 10.30	<p>7. Building partnerships – panel session</p> <p>Moderator: Clinton Chapman, GCCA: PSIS Climate Change Adviser</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viewing of Niue and Palau videos <p>Panel: Representatives from Niue and Palau and Gillian Cambers, GCCA: PSIS</p> <p>Discussion topics to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different types of partnerships Challenges encountered and how they were met Examples of other partnerships that have worked South-south cooperation
10.30 – 10.45	Morning tea
	Housekeeping matters
10.45 – 11.15	<p>8. Readiness for new forms of climate finance – panel session</p> <p>Moderator: Simone Stevenson, Ocean Management Officer, PIFS</p> <p>Panel: Representatives from Cook Islands and Tonga</p> <p>Discussion topics to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation Fund Green Climate Fund National funds

11.15 – 1.00	<p>9. Ways in which the project’s technical assistance and training has strengthened adaptation planning and more effective aid delivery – interactive session and small group discussions</p> <p>Moderator: Sanivalati Tubuna, GCCA: PSIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewing of Tuvalu video <p>Training in proposal preparation and logical framework analysis – interactive exercise</p> <p>Small group discussions (country groups) and report back in plenary on showcases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify your one most successful activity from the project’s policy planning and training activities taking into account the need to include special groups such as women, youth and the elderly • Prepare a 1 minute presentation to showcase the most successful activity
1.00 - 2.00	Lunch
2.00 – 2.15	10. Recap of Lessons Learnt: Titilia Rabuatoka, GCCA: PSIS
2.15 – 3.15	<p>11. Applying the lessons learnt to future planning for climate change and disaster risk – panel session</p> <p>Moderator: Gerald Zackios, Director, SPC North Pacific Office</p> <p>Panel: Representatives from ACSE, AusAID, PIFS, EU and other development partners</p> <p>Discussion topics to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to apply lessons learnt • What lessons from projects are already being applied
3.15 – 4.30	<p>12. If starting with a climate change adaptation project in the same sector now: what would we have done similarly and what would we have done differently – small group discussion session</p> <p>Moderator: Pasha Carruthers, GCCA: PSIS</p> <p>Small group discussions (country groups) and report back in plenary</p>
4.30 – 5.00	<p>13. Closing</p> <p>Meeting evaluation</p>
7pm	Dinner and closing at Pine Club

Annex 2: List of national videos

Climate Change Adaptation - the Pacific Way

Videos online at: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCq-WnF3Hdri67k5l3c-ew7AyfhQcWIXq>

Cook Islands

“Effectively managing marine resource in remote communities in Cook Islands” is one of nine country-specific videos in the series ‘Climate Change Adaptation – the Pacific Way’, produced by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community through the €11.4 million European Union funded Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project. The video is a compelling account of the effective management of marine resources in remote communities in the Cook Islands, highlighting improvements in the quality of information available to pearl farmers so as to improve their farming practices. Also featured is a unique internet training aspect of the project which enables senior citizens to use tablet computers to access relevant and timely information on climate change while simultaneously documenting their local knowledge about changes in their island environments.

Federated States of Micronesia

“Improving water security for traditional island living” is one of nine country-specific videos in the series “Climate Change Adaptation – the Pacific Way”, produced by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community through the €11.4 million European Union funded Global Climate Change Alliance: Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project. The video highlights the efforts undertaken to enhance water security in Fais Island, Yap State. Fais Island is a very remote outlying island where a traditional life style persists.

The video highlights the challenges in transporting water tanks and other water catchment materials to an island where there is no port and all materials have to be lightered ashore through the reef in small boats. The video shows how the community has contributed to the implementation of the project and the very real challenges they face, especially after the damage caused by Typhoon Maysak in April 2015 when there was no fresh water available on the island.

Kiribati

“Responding to climate sensitive health risks in Kiribati” is one of nine country-specific videos in the series “Climate Change Adaptation – the Pacific Way”, produced by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community through the €11.4 million European Union funded Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project.

The video highlights the lessons learnt in the “Improving Implementation of Environmental Health Surveillance and Response to Climate Sensitive Health Risks in Kiribati” project. The project is implementing activities to improve the capacity of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, in particular the Environmental Health Unit to provide equipment and training to enable staff to monitor and respond to climate sensitive health risks, such as dengue fever outbreaks, in a more effective manner.

Marshall Islands

“Strengthening coastal resilience in the outlying atolls of the Marshall Islands” is one of nine country-specific videos in the series “Climate Change Adaptation – the Pacific Way”, produced by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community through the €11.4 million European Union funded Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project.

The video highlights the lessons learnt in the “Building capacity to address coastal protection in the Marshall Islands” project. The project is strengthening the government’s capacity, particularly the Ministry of Public Works, to plan, design and construct hard and soft coastal engineering protection measures that will help protect the country’s many atolls from rising sea level and increased coastal erosion. Challenges encountered in constructing a causeway linking the two parts of Woja Island in the remote Aililnglaplap Atoll are featured.

Nauru

“Securing safe drinking water in Nauru” is one of nine country-specific videos in the series “Climate Change Adaptation – the Pacific Way”, produced by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community through the €11.4 million European Union funded Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project.

The video highlights the lessons learnt in the “Expanding national water storage capacity and improving water security in Nauru” project. The project is working with the government of Nauru to ensure that the people of Nauru have access to secure and safe drinking water through improving household rainwater harvesting systems and national water storage systems. Challenges include getting materials ashore without the benefit of a sheltered port.

Niue

“Rainwater capture and storage systems- Partnerships to strengthen Niue’s water security” is one of nine country-specific videos in the series “Climate Change Adaptation – the Pacific Way”, produced by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community through the €11.4 million European Union funded Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project.

The video highlights the lessons learnt in the “Augmentation of rainwater capture and storage in Niue” project, which together with the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project (PACC) and PACC+ project, constructed a tank moulding facility in Niue and supplied and installed household water catchment systems to the entire resident population of Niue.

Palau

“From coconuts to fresh water” is one of nine country-specific videos in the series “Climate Change Adaptation – the Pacific Way”, produced by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community through the €11.4 million European Union funded Global Climate Change Alliance: Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project.

The video highlights how water security in the remote, outlying island states of Angaur, Hatohobei, Sonsorol, Kayangel and Peleliu is being enhanced. In some of these small islands, residents have to

turn to drinking coconuts in times of drought. The video illustrates the successful collaboration between the Palau Public Utilities Corporation and the state governments in the five outlying island states to increase access and availability of quality water through both improved ground water and rainwater catchment systems. The extensive consultation process in the preparation of the Palau Climate Change Policy for climate and disaster resilient low-carbon emissions development is also featured.

Tonga

“Buying time with better coastal management in Tonga” is one of nine country-specific videos in the series “Climate Change Adaptation – the Pacific Way”, produced by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community through the €11.4 million European Union funded Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project.

The video highlights the lessons learnt in the “Trialling coastal protection measures in eastern Tongatapu” project. The project focuses on designing, building and monitoring “hard” and “soft” engineering measures working in combination along two coastal stretches and features the community perspectives.

Tuvalu

“Promoting local food production in Tuvalu” is one of nine country specific videos in the series “Climate Change Adaptation- the Pacific Way”, produced by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community through the €11.4 European Union funded Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project.

The video highlights the lessons learnt in the “Improving agro-forestry systems to enhance food security and build resilience to climate change in Tuvalu” project. The project aims to demonstrate how domestic food security can be enhanced through integrated farming practices that combine crops (agriculture) with trees and shrubs (forestry). This method can provide greater diversification, reliability and sustainability of land-use and yields.

Longer videos

Cook Islands: A lifetime of change

This documentary titled “A Lifetime of Change” was part of the Rauti Para (Senior Citizen) project carried out in 2014 in the southern Cook Islands. The documentary was financed by the SPC EU GCCA: PSIS project and the SRIC CC program and produced by the Cook Islands. The documentary shows how climate change and climate variability are impacting the Cook Islands and describes some of the changes in marine resources that Cook Islands’ elders have observed within their lifetime.

FSM: Improving water security for traditional island living (extended version)

“Improving Water Security for Traditional Island Living: Lessons Learnt” is an extended version of the FSM video in the series “Climate Change Adaptation – the Pacific Way”, produced by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community through the €11.4 million European Union funded Global Climate Change Alliance: Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project.

The video highlights the challenges in transporting water tanks and other water catchment materials to an island where there is no port and all materials have to be lightered ashore through the reef in small boats. The video shows how the community has contributed to the implementation of the project and the very real challenges they face, especially after the damage caused by Typhoon Maysak in April 2015 when there was no fresh water available on the island.

Kiribati: SODIS

The “SODIS in Kiribati” video describes a technique for disinfecting water in Kiribati. SODIS is an inexpensive, reliable and safe method that has spread throughout the developing world. Although more than five million people in 50 countries globally disinfect their drinking water with SODIS, this technique is as yet little known in the Pacific region.

The video describes the benefits and the steps to disinfect drinking water using only the power of the sun. The video was produced nationally by the Kiribati Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) – Environmental Health Unit and was funded by the European Union through the Secretariat of the Pacific Community implemented Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project.

Tuvalu: Agroforestry practices

This video describes in detail agroforestry techniques for farmers in Tuvalu and was prepared as part of the “Improving agro-forestry systems to enhance food security and build resilience to climate change in Tuvalu” project.

Annex 3: List of participants

No.	Country	First Name	Surname	Job Title	Organisation	Phone/ Email
Country participants						
1	Cook Islands	Ana	Tiraa	Director	Climate Change Cook Islands, Office of the Prime Minister	ana.tiraa@cookislands.gov.ck
2	Cook Islands	Teina	Rongo	GCCA: PSIS National Coordinator	Office of the Prime Minister	teina.rongo@cookislands.gov.ck
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4	Cook Islands	Teuru	Passfield	Pearl Biologist	Ministry of Marine Resources	t.passfield@mmr.gov.ck
5	Federated States of Micronesia	Andrew	Yatilman	Director	Office of Environment and Emergency Management	andrewy@mail.fm
6	Federated States of Micronesia	Cindy	Ehmes	Assistant Director	Office of Environmental Response and Coordination	climate@mail.fm
7	Federated States of Micronesia	Alissa	Takesy	Assistant Secretary	Department of Resources & Development	alissa.takesy@fsmrd.fm
8	Federated States of Micronesia	Belinda	Hadley	GCCA: PSIS National Coordinator	Office of Environment and Emergency Management	belinhadley@gmail.com
9	Federated States of Micronesia	Dickson	Wichep	Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure	Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure	d_sonwichep@yahoo.com
10	Federated States of Micronesia	Raymond	Tamow	Project Officer	GCCA: PSIS Project, Yap	rtamow@gmail.com

No.	Country	First Name	Surname	Job Title	Organisation	Phone/ Email
11	Federated States of Micronesia	Aden	Suwel	Curriculum Specialist	Yap Department of Education	asuwel@yapseed.fm
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13	Federated States of Micronesia	James	Lukan	Director	Yap Department of Resources & Development	
14	Federated States of Micronesia	Tony	Ganangiyan	Governor	Yap State	
15	Federated States of Micronesia	Jonathan	Marmar	Director	Public Works & Transport	
16	Federated States of Micronesia	Hilary	Tachilliez	Acting Chairman	Council of Tamo, Yap	
17	Federated States of Micronesia	Jerry	Fagolimul	Senator	Yap State Legislative	
18	Federated States of Micronesia	John	Mooteb	Senator	Yap State Legislative	
19	Federated States of Micronesia	Christina	Fillmed	Executive Director	Yap Environmental Protection Authority	epayap@mail.fm
20	Federated States of Micronesia	Manuel	Maleichog	Deputy Director	Yap Public Works	350-2158
21	Federated States of Micronesia	Ben	Chosmal	Coordinator	Yap Office of Planning & Budget	bchosmal@gmail.com
22	Federated States of Micronesia	Julius	Choseinal	Administrative Officer		350-2343
23	Federated States of Micronesia	Ted	Rutun	Senator	Yap State Legislative	
24	Kiribati	Tebikau	Tibwe	Chief Health Inspector	Ministry of Health & Medical Services	tnoran@gmail.com
25	Kiribati	Kiatoa	Tio	Project Officer	Ministry of Health &	kjamakite@gmail.com

No.	Country	First Name	Surname	Job Title	Organisation	Phone/ Email
					Medical Services	
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27	Marshall Islands	Malia	Heine	Budget Officer	Ministry of Public Works	malia.heine@gmail.com
28	Marshall Islands	Melvin	Dacillo	Project Management Unit Manager	Ministry of Public Works	architectpmurmi2005@gmail.com
29	Marshall Islands	Ywao	Elanzo	GCCA: PSIS National Coordinator	Office of Environmental Policy and Planning Coordination	ye28@yahoo.com
30	Nauru	Claudette	Wharton	GCCA: PSIS National Coordinator	Department of Commerce, Industry & Environment	claudette.s.wharton@gmail.com
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No.	Country	First Name	Surname	Job Title	Organisation	Phone/ Email
					Response and Coordination	
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40	Palau	Amand	Alexander	Office Manager/ Programme Coordinator	Office of Environmental Response and Coordination	amand.oerc@pal.com
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43	Tonga	Aneti	Havili	GCCA: PSIS Finance Officer, Tonga	Department of Climate Change	berna.windy@gmail.com
44	Tuvalu	Itaia	Lausaveve	Director of Agriculture	Ministry of Natural Resources	itaialausaveve@gmail.com
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46	Tuvalu	Faoliu	Teakau	GCCA: PSIS National Coordinator	Department of Environment	fteakau@gmail.com
47	Tuvalu	Enalizer	Fuiono	GCCA: PSIS Project Officer	Ministry of Natural Resources	enafakatasi@gmail.com
Development partners						
48		Martin	Chong	Programme Manager, Infrastructure and Natural	Delegation of the European Union for the	Martin-Laikit.CHONG@eeas.europa.eu

No.	Country	First Name	Surname	Job Title	Organisation	Phone/ Email
				Resources	Pacific	
49		Simone	Stevenson	Ocean Management Officer	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat	simones@forumsec.org
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52		Joyce	Gehr	Australian Aid	Australian Embassy	joyce.gehr@dfat.gov.au
53		Pam	Legdesog	Senior Specialist	Pacific Resources for Education and Learning	legdesop@PREL.ORG
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57		Rachael	Nash	Regional Coordinator	Micronesia Challenge	micronesiachallenge@gmail.com
58		Berna	Gorong		The Nature Conservancy Micronesia	berna.gorong@tnc.com
59		Tagaloa	Cooper	Climate Change Coordination Adviser	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme	tagaloac@sprep.org
SPC staff						

No.	Country	First Name	Surname	Job Title	Organisation	Phone/ Email
60		Gerald	Zackios	Director	Secretariat of the Pacific Community, North Pacific Regional Office	GeraldZ@spc.int
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62		Clinton	Chapman	Climate Change Adviser	GCCA: PSIS Project	clintonc@spc.int
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64		Sanivalati	Tubuna	Climate Change Adviser	GCCA: PSIS Project	sanivalati@spc.int
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67		Sheik	Irfaan	Finance Officer	GCCA: PSIS Project	SheikI@spc.int
68		Zhiyad	Khan	Communications Assistant	GCCA: PSIS Project	zhiyadk@spc.int
69		Swastika	Raju	Finance Assistant	GCCA: PSIS Project	swastika@spc.int
70		Teresia	Niukula	Administrative Assistant	GCCA: PSIS Project	teresian@spc.int
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73		Lona	Fel Garayol			
74		Dilyusech	Polloi			
75		Timothy	Gamow			
76		Thomasa	Pilyan			
77		Michele	Chugen			
78		James	Falag			
79		Paige	Zamora			
80		Jerica	Buthungligorad			

Annex 4: Compilation of discussions on “Transferring project funds directly to national budgets”

Each small group was required to discuss the following:

- What were the benefits?
- What are the challenges?
- Experiences from other donors.
- Procurement issues.
- Roles of project finance officers and national coordinators.

The following is a compilation of the group discussions.

Benefits of transferring project funds directly to national budgets:

- Increases national ownership of project activities;
- Allows for the use of government finance and auditing systems;
- Allows for some flexibility between the different budget lines;
- Promotes collaboration among the different agencies involved in the project and enhances relationship between sector agencies and Ministry of Finance;
- Allows the government to employ local people and support community and education activities with funds external to its core budget;
- Provides for accountability and transparency.

Challenges of transferring project funds directly to national budgets:

- Maintaining due diligence in a short project time period (3 years);
- Sustainability beyond project life;
- Keeping track and accounting for project funds;
- Political influence;
- Government processes and approval system can sometimes delay project activities;
- Combining national and state budget requirements (in the case of FSM);
- Currency fluctuations;
- Different reporting requirements for different donors.

Experiences from other donors with transferring project funds directly to national budgets:

- Meeting different donor requirements and criteria is a challenge for many countries;
- Most donors use the government established systems;
- Some donors are quite strict once project activities are designed and any changes may then delay activities and disbursement of funds;
- With so many donors having different regulations and approaches, it is preferable to have the national government line agency responsible for finance as the sole conduit for donor funds;
- In some countries grants are channelled through the Ministry of State, so the Ministry of Finance and other line agencies need to work closely with the Ministry of State so as to inform them of national needs and priorities.

Procurement issues:

- There is a need to sensitise counterparts in the Ministry of Finance about project timelines and implementation schedule;

- Major issues related to following national procedures which many felt were too long and complicated, getting the appropriate approvals, obtaining the required three quotations, shipping delays.

Roles of project finance officers and national coordinators:

- Some national coordinators have to perform several roles e.g. project implementation and financial acquittal as well as coordination;
- Other national coordinators have coordination as their main role, but still have to have a detailed knowledge of the climate change adaptation project and to liaise closely with project officers and finance officers;
- All coordinators are responsible for consistent, regular and accurate reporting;
- Coordinators need to be accepted and fully supported by the target community and therefore need to build and maintain a good relationship with stakeholders;
- National coordinators must meet minimum qualifications to carry out agreed terms of reference;
- National coordinators must be committed to complete the project.

Annex 5: Interactive session on the Pacific Climate Change Portal

Select a representative from your country to undertake a digital treasure hunt with their computer. Gather round and help or observe them. All other computers are requested to go offline to enable portal access.

- 1) Find the Pacific Climate Change Portal.
- 2) Find your country's profile page, and then the Adaptation tab, count how many adaptation projects are listed for your country (you may have to click an additional tab).
- 3) Find your country's SPC GCCA: PSIS Project Information Overview Factsheet and open and save it.
- 4) Find your country's SPC GCCA: PSIS Review of Mainstreaming of Climate Change into National Plans and Policies document, open and save it.
- 5) Find your country's focal points listed on the portal, and write down who the in-country ones are.
- 6) Find the TA request form for the Regional Technical Support Mechanism.

Annex 6: Results of session on “What we would have done differently and what would we have done the same?”

What did not go as planned with your GCCA: PSIS project?

Country specific

1. Cook Islands:
 - First application for accreditation to Adaptation Fund was not successful;
 - Water quality monitoring buoy was not properly sealed;
 - It took longer than planned for the Marine Biologist to get fully settled in Manihiki.
2. FSM:
 - Not being able to implement project activities fully in Chuuk State;
 - Interruptions resulting from Typhoon Maysak.
3. Palau:
 - Delay in the endorsement of the Palau Climate Change Policy;
 - Unforeseen amount of resources and technical assistance required to develop the policy;
 - The original project design was focused on water infrastructure improvements in one island, Angaur, but later expanded to include the remaining outer islands.
4. Tuvalu: Moving to the outer island project site took longer than planned due to shipping unreliability.
5. Tonga: Sourcing a supply of sand for beach re-nourishment.

Non-country specific

6. Local schedules changed often, so several workshops had to be rescheduled;
7. Budget cost overruns when actual costs were greater than those estimated;
8. Difficulty in obtaining financial supporting documents;
9. Procurement;
10. Funding allocation for community consultation.

Lessons learnt, if starting the GCCA: PSIS project now, what would you do differently?

1. Project planning:
 - Improve project scheduling;
 - Use experienced government staff and provide healthier salaries to attract technical candidates with appropriate qualifications;
 - Provide more training for government staff;
 - Strengthen coordination between national coordinator and project officers;
 - Focus on one island or state and ensure the project is relevant to other islands;
 - Involve more key players;
 - Consult community stakeholders on the feasibility study.
2. Transportation:
 - Include options for charters when needed;
 - Include shipping authorities in the planning phases.
3. Design and construction:
 - Design and construction to be done by government;
 - Select implementing and executing partners wisely.
4. Awareness and education:
 - Start awareness and education activities at the beginning of the project;
 - Fully engage communities at the beginning;

- Translate communication products into the local language sooner.
- 5. Inclusion of higher education scholarships for science-related topics.

Lessons learnt, if starting the GCCA: PSIS project now, what would you do similarly?

Country specific

1. Cook Islands:
 - Conduct water monitoring without the sophisticated real-time monitoring buoy; use simple data collection methods;
 - Station a marine biologist in Manihiki (and also Penrhyn) and ensure previous marine biologists stationed in the outer islands train new ones;
 - Continue with the survey of Rauti Para (senior citizen) to collect local information; collect information for public awareness about climate variability and change;
 - Keep the same project manager.

Non-country specific

2. Reporting to GCCA: PSIS – it was simple compared to other reporting templates from other donors.
3. Repeat the achievement from past experiences.
4. Water projects:
 - Projects (water) to be spread throughout the main island;
 - Concentrate on the families/homes that actually need water tanks and better water supply;
 - Focus on the water again as more still needs to be done; repeat agreements with households.
5. Employ the same staff; use local contractors.
6. Perform extensive sectoral consultations at all levels to gain a more complete picture of the matters related to climate change.
7. Scope projects that would best suit the needs of the communities.

What are the GCCA: PSIS project achievements you are most proud of?

Country specific

1. Cook Islands:
 - The Rauti Para survey to collect local knowledge and putting this in a peer reviewed journal; and the documentary;
 - School and farmer training in lagoon monitoring;
 - Providing an opportunity for a young biologist to develop skills;
 - Weekly water quality reports from Manihiki.
2. Nauru:
 - Completion of the RONAdapt;
 - Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) training.
3. Palau Climate Change Policy.
4. Tuvalu:
 - Agroforestry demonstration sites for all stakeholders to see and learn from given the decline in agricultural production in rural Tuvalu and the food security threat now being faced;
 - Farmers and women can now work effectively and efficiently on farms to get more benefits.

Non-country specific

5. Outcome of community consultations;
6. Outcome of construction;
7. Community pleased and delivery time achieved;
8. Political will and support for the project;
9. Project provides a direct and marked improvement in the lives of a community and with a maintenance component included;
10. National, state, local parties all worked together;
11. First flush device;
12. Enhancement of the accessibility of clean/fresh water to the community through the water infrastructure improvement projects;
13. Water projects;
14. Completing demonstration sites in the capital;
15. The products resulting from the project- reports, videos, etc.

How will you share the lessons learnt with other relevant stakeholders?

1. The way we presented our project at the steering committee meeting;
2. Documentaries;
3. Lessons learnt meetings and workshops;
4. Internet tools, websites, social media;
5. Media and media releases;
6. Reports and publications;
7. Meetings;
8. Include in our ongoing climate awareness efforts;
9. This project will be a model project for others;
10. Visitation to project sites by stakeholders in outer islands;
11. Conduct project impact assessment in outer islands;
12. Personally with friends and family and sharing of videos;
13. Sharing documents with colleagues in respective sectors;
14. Awareness programmes to NGOs.

Annex 7: Evaluation of the meeting

GCCA: PSIS Lessons Learnt Meeting Evaluation Form Analysis

Gender: Female 12 Male 13 Unknown 10

Panel session on outer islands needing special attention				
On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, please rate whether you agree with this topic being an important lesson learnt for the project overall.				
5	4	3	2	1
30	4	1		
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenging to present without PowerPoint. Learning about other people's issues is always beneficial. Logistical issues may be difficult for people who have not experienced them to understand. Liked this session because not many remote outer islands receive projects. Logistical challenges and needs of residents can be difficult to understand. Outer islands and its people are often forgotten in the Cooks, especially, the northern group. It identifies challenges which would be used for contingencies on future projects. Based on challenges that stretch beyond logistics, outer islands have unique circumstances that require special needs. Very relevant because the greatest challenge is with remote outer islands. Outer islands are the grass root beneficiaries and we should pay respect to them. Not all the islands are the same so it is important to focus on the most vulnerable in the outer islands. It gives me a new field to better understand the aspects of climate change. Great exchange of information for all countries to learn from. Having the session makes us appreciative of these countries' situations as well as your own being an island country. 				

Session on transferring funds directly to national budgets				
On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, how useful was the session for the financial planning of future projects?				
5	4	3	2	1
15	11	8		1
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I still don't know enough about funds, finance, budgets to have fully understood, but it was helpful to hear what others had to say. Still constraints in our country's procurement process, therefore a challenge with trying to start projects on time. Sensitising our finance counterparts, on transfer of funds and delays can affect project timeframes. OK, but would have liked a brief summary to consider while listening. Challenge to stay focussed on panellists as it was after lunch. An energizer or scheduling the session in the morning would have been better. National finance ministries need to improve internal processes. A project finance officer is recommended in line ministry for faster payment 				

processing.

- Still an important ideal for countries not yet accredited.
- A bit timing – not a very focused panel.
- Very useful because the disciplines related to sound public management is a real challenge for many Pacific countries.
- Perhaps there is a need to focus national processes.
- Relevant to agree of how effective this would be without a robust LoA.
- It has broadened my knowledge knowing half of the financial concepts of planning of future projects being supported by other donors.
- Thank the GGCA office treasury discussion for being so open and flexibility to countries needs at times when things seem to slowdown.
- Need to find more ways to speed funding transfer.

Session on information sharing and knowledge management

On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, how useful was this session for information sharing in your country?

5	4	3	2	1
21	12	2		

Comments:

- It was great to hear what worked in other countries; valuable information shared will be really useful for future projects.
- The importance of the topic is crucial; maybe the concepts of KMI could be understood and transmitted.
- Didn't learn much that we don't already know but was good to hear about the climate change portal.
- Knowledge transfer to other sectoral partners, e.g. statistics to create continuity and build up the state of the environment profile.
- Enlightening for partners throughout the region.
- Useful because the countries face similar challenges and sharing the knowledge they have developed is key to the legacy of the GGCA:PSIS project.
- This is very important as capacity building and informing is priority for successful projects.
- Very important session.
- It proved beneficial so we can take this information and broaden the uneducated on the different countries projects on climate change and water security.
- This has been useful to improve our project management and to be implementers according to plans and adjoining needs.
- Having the session makes us appreciative of these countries' situations as well as your own being an island country...something that is lacking at the national level.

Session on changing community perceptions and attitudes

On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, how useful was this session for planning future communications work?

5	4	3	2	1
19	14	1		

Comments:

- There was a big effort to develop an interesting and participatory discussion but some participants were not so active.
- Important topic!
- This was a very important topic but this didn't come out effectively from the panel.
- Technical assistance to the outer island communities has gone a long way with new things to learn about climate change.

- Well done to Charlene who did a good job getting the panel and the meeting to speak.
- Communication networks and concepts pretty much established but sharing with our brothers and sisters added value.
- Useful because we have to be innovative in ensuring communications is enhanced so that the messages we impart hits the target audience.
- It's a challenge but needs to be achieved for a successful project.
- Could have approached differently.
- We need to know others' experiences.
- Very good listening to participants from each country, we all seem to have the same problems in terms of communications and attitude. A good session to share ways of improving.
- It is a challenging issue but certainly this workshop gave insights to options for improvement.

Session on building partnerships

On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, how useful was this session for building future partnerships?

5	4	3	2	1
21	12	1		

Comments:

- Partners have really contributed a lot to better and efficient implementation of projects.
- Partnership is a key ingredient for success within the FSM in light of its logistics and procurement challenges.
- I feel that I have learnt a lot through this experience and I think others will feel the same way.
- Nothing new.
- Excellent topic.
- Directs us towards the right path for future engagement.
- Great sharing of experiences from panel and comments from countries for all to learn to practically apply in their situation.
- It enabled us to learn how to future collaborate with foreign partnerships or countries.
- The panel could have done better.
- Important session for future planning and resource allocation and including lessons learnt.
- The most important things as small islands are still dependant on TA's, financial supports etc.
- Very useful to ensure the success of projects.
- The more well-coordinated/well-informed partnerships are, the better it is for information to get out.
- Especially touched on partnership being built on trust, transparency and accountability.

Session on readiness for new forms of climate finance

On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, how useful was the session on readiness for new forms of climate finance?

5	4	3	2	1
14	14	5		

Comments:

- Enlightening to the point that it identified our weaknesses enabling a more informed approach.
- Important information and may be good if SPC/SPREP gives an update to countries and country focal points so that they can update relevant stakeholders.
- Interesting to learn about new opportunities and navigating through these frameworks.
- Great news but was not too useful for us "hands on" guys who may not know details or where project financing comes from.

- More information, programme summaries.
- It was a great meeting, lots of sharing of lessons learned. Host country was amazing and SPC staff was fantastic, thank you GCCA for a great programme.
- All topics were very relevant and pertinent to our meeting, thank you very much.
- A plus to know what donors have in store for us in the future and vice versa.
- Very useful because countries are at various stages of the accreditation process so the sharing of experiences was important.
- Could have been approached differently.
- A very important subject.
- Useful information was learnt from donor partners, very useful to prepare countries in near future on their priorities.

Session on effectiveness of technical assistance and training

On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, how useful was this session on technical assistance and training?

5	4	3	2	1
15	14	4	1	

Comments:

- It is always great to get technical assistance since there is very limited expertise available in our islands.
- Need more LFA training for villagers and people in remote locations.
- Training will definitely be easier.
- TA is key to implementation.
- The LFA process was a success.
- Very good results on the ground. Moving from training to practical work.
- A very important subject.
- It was very helpful as it enabled us to be better project officers and coordinators.
- We managed to complete them in time.
- Panel was too long – need to be more interesting!
- Important due to the capacity of countries.

Panel session on application of the lessons learnt

On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, how useful was this session for the application of lessons learnt?

5	4	3	2	1
24	7	2		

Comments:

- The lesson learnt application was really helpful and I believe it will help us improve our future proposals and plans.
- Good panel, worth it!
- Great to hear each country's experiences.
- Enlightening and inspiring.
- A key part of success and legacy is the lessons we learn to better next time.
- Very important for successful implementation.
- Should have spent more time on this topic.
- A very important subject so that each country can rectify the lessons learnt.
- Most useful session given information shared from all countries' experiences.
- More time needed.

Small group discussions on what would we have done similarly and differently

On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, how useful was this session for future planning of project activities?

5	4	3	2	1
25	8	2		

Comments:

- Nice to reflect, very motivating to hear what others are proud of.
- Very useful, more insights, gained through lessons learned.
- I liked that the sharing kept it moving – nice facilitation.
- Very useful, I believe we should always look ahead in our projects, thus being prepared for whatever may come.
- Very good proposal, maybe not well-developed as expected.
- Better prepared.
- Countries have a clear idea of what they need to do.
- We may address the gaps and failures.
- No regrets on activities.
- Like the way it was done.
- Very good!
- It proved useful so that in future generations, we can strengthen our countries through better reconstruction of contingencies.
- Most useful exercise and information shared to improve all countries.

Any other general comments about the meeting

- Well organised, lovely people, great learning opportunity, thank you so much!
- PA system and Internet connectivity would have been better if enough thought for the setting of the venue was allocated otherwise a better venue would have been considered.
- Thank you very much for everything.
- Really enjoyed this meeting and have really learnt a lot, thank you.
- People from Yap very friendly and helpful.
- Thank you very much for EUs assistance and support. I will miss Gillian's management and leadership as the regional manager for SPC (sic) in our region.
- Afternoons hard after big meals.
- Thanks and team great working with you all, never had difficulty with reports etc.
- Gillian and the GCCA team were beyond fantastic!
- Needed more discussion times in groups, sharing ideas and experiences from other countries.
- Thank you lots to Yap State Government for being a wonderful host. Thank you SPC/GCCA support staff in Fiji and country-level and EU for funding our country projects. See you all in GCCA+.
- Good to be here to learn what happened in the other countries.
- Thanks GCCA: PSIS - SPC/GIZ insights being obtained.
- Excellent meeting!
- The panel were very interactive and allowed for all countries to share and contribute their lessons learned. Panellists chosen were great and practical with challenges shared.
- As scored the regional team did a great job with relevant topics/discussions (consistent from all meetings). Tubwa omwaki :)
- Great opportunities to share from teams – good balance of presentation and activity. Everyone seemed engaged. I learned a lot from all the teams. Meaningful dialogue as feedback and feed 'forward' for next steps.
- Excellent arrangement – thanks Yap team.