European Union

GCCA Global Climate Change Alliance

SPC Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Increasing coastal water and food security for climate change in selected Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) state outlying islands

Improving rainwater catchment and storage systems. One of the ways in which FSM is adapting to climate change.

Project amount

€ 0.5 million (approx. USD 0.66 million) funded by the European Union

Project period

21 September 2013 to 30 June 2015

Implementing agencies

Office of Environment and Emergency Management (national)
Yap State Department of Resources and Development
Chuuk State Environment Protection Agency
Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

Partners

Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (Water for Life project)
International Organisation for Migration

Project synopsis

The 'Increasing coastal water and food security for climate change in selected FSM state outlying islands' project is providing rainwater catchment systems and improving water infrastructure in Fais Island, an outlying island of Yap State, and in Eot and Udot Islands, two lagoon islands in Chuuk State. The capacity and quality of household and communal rainwater catchment systems will be increased. The project will also provide information and resources to improve water systems maintenance, water conservation, and water education as well as contributing to the professional hydrological knowledge base with respect to the outlying islands of FSM.

How does this project assist climate change adaptation?

The availability of fresh water in the outlying island communities of FSM is dependent upon favourable environmental conditions. Climate change can affect water security in these communities in a number of ways, including: (i) higher air temperatures can affect evaporation rates and the availability of quality water, (ii) changes in precipitation (rainfall) and extreme weather events will aggravate water scarcity, and (iii) the sea level will continue to rise, which can affect the availability and quality of water supply in small, low-lying islands.

The objective is to contribute to water security in line with the climate change adaptation needs and priorities identified in the *FSM Nationwide Integrated Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Policy and Act 2013*. Specifically, the project's purpose is to increase access and sustainable use of good quality water for communities living in outlying islands.

Key highlights of the project

- Install household water catchment and storage systems in Fais Island.
- Improve existing infrastructure for communal catchments and storage in Fais, Eot and Udot Islands.
- Provide training in maintenance and repair so that rainwater systems are able to consistently supply high quality water that meets health and safety standards. Formal agreements between government partners, land owners and community representatives are being secured to continue monitoring and maintenance after the project finishes.
- The training schedule will, in particular, focus on engaging community members in continued water quality monitoring to supplement the existing monitoring schedule of the Environmental Protection Agency. This will help ensure that rainwater catchment and storage systems are providing potable water.

The project's focus was determined by the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia and included widespread consultation. FSM is responsible for the project's implementation.

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The Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States project in Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)

FSM is vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Together with eight other countries it is part of the GCCA: PSIS project.

The Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project is a four year € 11.4 million initiative funded by the European Union. It is implemented regionally by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and involves national climate change adaptation projects in nine Pacific Island countries – Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu.

The overall objective of the GCCA: PSIS project is to support the governments of the nine Pacific small island states in their efforts to tackle the adverse effects of climate change.

The Government of FSM is implementing a national climate change adaptation project (see reverse side for more information) with € 0.5 million provided by the European Union.

In addition to this project funding, FSM can access specialised technical assistance and training provided through a pooled resource allocation in the regional GCCA: PSIS umbrella project. This mechanism is providing the following in FSM.

Training

Training activities include:

- proposal preparation, project design and budgeting, monitoring and evaluation;
- media training, conveying information on climate change to the public using radio, television and print media; and
- utilising the Pacific Climate Change Portal to store and access relevant information for decision making.

National climate change mainstreaming

Mainstreaming refers to the process of embedding climate change planning in the spectrum of government ministries, sectoral plans and activities.

In 2013, FSM enacted the *Nationwide Integrated Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Policy and Act*. These instruments introduce legal obligations, including reporting, for national government departments and agencies.

To further assist FSM, the GCCA: PSIS project conducted a review of the extent of climate change mainstreaming in national strategic plans, policies and budgets in FSM. This was done to inform an assessment of the country's readiness to receive international climate finance through budget support mechanisms.

Documentary

In 2013, a short documentary, *Adapting to Climate Change in FSM: the Food and Water Security Dimension*,was prepared and distributed as part of a regional series. The video focuses on food and water resource challenges in many small low-lying island nations. The situation is predicted to worsen in years ahead.