

October Issue # 21 Climate Change Cook Islands Office of the Prime Minister

UNFCCC ADP Meeting in Bonn 20 – 25

October



Cook Islands delegation consisted of; Ms Linda Siegele Advisor to Cook Islands Delegation, Ms Amelia Fukofuka from Foreign Affairs and Ms Celine Dyer from Climate Change Cook Islands.

The ADP meeting was intended to progress the work previously done earlier in June to speed up the process at the upcoming December COP20 meeting in Lima. At the plenary session, the Cook Islands called other countries to ensure that ambition levels are high enough to keep temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius. Seemingly, even at current temperature levels small low lying islands are feeling the adverse impacts of climate change. Furthermore, Cook Islands called that the special circumstances of SIDS be considered in the development of iNDCs and this exercise should be used to build on and strengthen existing national systems. In addition, finance to be made available to carry this out including for technology transfer, capacity building, research and education, public awareness initiatives, mitigation and adaptation measures. Cook Islands also made special reference to mitigation as the core of iNDCs with the leveraging of existing systems by the use of national policies and legal instruments. By avoiding onerous conditionality on small island states, thus progressing the advancement of the work and increasing resiliency whilst contributing to the continuity and sustainability of work programmes. Some countries such as New Zealand, Canada and others supported Cook Islands stance on mitigation.

Mangaia launched Disaster Risk Management Plan

On 10 October the Mangaia Disaster Risk Management (DRM) plan was launched. Local government under the auspices of the Disaster Risk Management Committees put the plan together. Various organizations contributed to the plan including Mangaia's Telecom, the Ministry of Health and the Red Cross. The University of the South Pacific provided technical support. Mangaia is the first Pa Enua Island to revise and update their DRM plan. "The ideas presented in this plan are all collected from key stakeholders of the island, based on local experiences. There is nothing new; it is simple to follow, you can go from A – B, you can fit it in your pocket", said Ngametua College, Executive Officer for the Mangaia Island Government. Essentially, the plan is aimed at ensuring that Mangaia Island and its people are better equipped, better resourced and more ready in the wake of any natural disasters.

"Ia ora to rima – sharpen your hands and be strong to defend yourself, defend our people and the island. This is what it is about in a nutshell" said College.



Mr Nena College pictured making his speech at the launch (Photo by Ana Tiraa)

SRIC Focal Point Up-skilling Workshop

SRIC Focal Points from the Pa Enua gathered from the 6 – 10 October for their annual training workshop. Besides visiting previous sites of work such as the Ministry of Health, Agriculture and Titikaveka Growers Association, main focus of the workshop centred on the Logical Framework Approach (LFA) to proposal writing. From the refresher LFA training, some of the Focal Points identified new initiatives for their respective islands. The Focal Point for Mitiaro Tepuaroa Tetava proposed three new projects intended to exploit the island's natural geographical features to develop economical and food security for Mitiaro. In his proposal Tepuaroa Tetava identified a duck farm as a feasible business opportunity utilising the wetlands and the lake, puraka plantation for sustainable food security and rauara rangaranga (pandanus) plantation to supply material for weaving and for women's craft work.



Lake Rotonui in Mitiaro the largest freshwater lake in Cook Islands 2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)

Other proposals put forward by Focal Points included portable public toilet facilities to be put in certain areas around Aitutaki and flush toilets for the island of Nassau. Mangaia island requested for household water tanks to cope with increased and longer drought conditions whilst Rakahanga Henua were also concerned with water security and requested for the upgrade to the infrastructure of existing water holes. Unfortunately, other Focal Points from the rest of the islands were unable to make it to the training due to transportation restrictions. However, those who attended appreciated the opportunity to catch up, share experiences and exchange ideas resulting in new proposals being put forward for 2015. Thanks to Rob Matapo for organising and facilitating this workshop.



Some of the Focal Points; Tepuaroa Tetava of Mitiaro, Pa Epi Mana from Mangaia, Nga Takai from Rakahanga with Shelley Tavai from Aitutaki in the workshop (Photo by Celine Dyer)

Atiu Rauti Para Monitoring

The Rauti Para tablet training monitoring continued on the island of Atiu from 6 – 9 October. Those who participated in the training were interviewed for feedback and to ascertain if there was value from the tablet training to the individual and the community at large. Similarly to previous islands, the participants from Atiu also requested for a follow up training and to extend the training for another week. One participant who is also a businesswoman found the tablet training useful for her business, where previously she would call to place her orders, but since taking the training and using emails it has greatly reduced her phone bill and the time she spent on the phone following up orders. Others reported that the tablet training has given them confident to use other technological gadgets where previously they were reluctant to touch or use from fear of wrecking or breaking them. Government workers who attended the training also commented on how the training has increased their knowledge on technology and improved their skills, considering they hardly have any such training provided to them in the outer islands. Others not involved in the training asked if another class could be run after hours to cater for workers unable to attend during working hours. The overall feedback from respondents was positive as the training was useful to individuals in different ways. The overall disappointment was that they were unable to purchase personal tablets after the training as they wanted to continue practising in their homes.

Kura Tauī'anga Reva

Kura Kuriri

Ana Tiraa Director of Climate Change is off to attend the IUCN council meeting followed by the IUCN World Park Congress in Sydney from 4 – 12 November 2014

PHOTOS FROM THE RAUTI PARA FINAL TABLET AND NEWRYTHMICS CLASSES AT ARE PA METUA..



TILL NEXT TIME..KIA MANUIA!