

Welcome to the PACRES Newsletter



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Newsletter

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Meet the team



Ms. Anais Rouveyrol,
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Management
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Ms. Melinda A. Mathers,
SPC TVET team leader



Mr. Ledua Vakaloloma,
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PACRES Project Officer
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► For further information on PACRES please contact pacresinfo@sprep.org



Students at Nasau Youth
Training Centre in Sigatoka.

PACRES supports scaling up of TVET in the Pacific

PACRES continues to support scaling up the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector in the Pacific by strengthening the delivery of the Resilience Qualification by the TVET institutions. One of the approaches employed is the provision of tools and equipment to institutions offering these qualifications. This includes computers, GPS and soil sampling kits by way of examples.

To date, PACRES has completed the groundwork to provide these tools and equipment to the Fiji Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoY) and is awaiting the approval of a Letter of Agreement between SPC and the MoY.

Under the guidance of the Fiji Higher Education Commission, the MoY is set to deliver the existing Resilience Qualification Level 1 this year in two of its campuses: (1) Valelevu National Youth Training Centre, Suva and the (2) Naleba Youth Training Centre, Labasa.

The immediate beneficiaries of this intervention are the 30 youths currently enrolled by the MoY for the Certificate Level 1.

The access to appropriate training tools and equipment will give students more hands-on training whilst acquiring employable skills required in the workplace. For example, the use of the soil salinity test kits, GPS and computers will help students to translate the theoretical lessons and interpret data gathered from the kits to prepare reports using the appropriate tools and/or equipment.

Collaboration on similar activities is underway in other countries in the Pacific.

This activity builds on the efforts carried out by the EU PacTVET project in 2020.

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About PACRES

Welcome to the first PACRES newsletter for 2021!

Despite the continuing restrictions imposed by responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to implement PACRES activities through a variety of strategies.

We now have a good local PACRES presence in all five countries where we are scaling up adaptation pilots, including:

- in Papua New Guinea where we have our SPREP Project Officer Lindsay Sau and USP Research and Community Officer (RCO) Sarah Griffin working closely with the Adaptation team at the Climate Change Development Authority;
- in Samoa the SPREP Project Management Unit is working directly with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and USP's RCO Karen Komiti;
- in Solomon Islands Chris Teva and John Walenenea our Project Officer and RCO are working with the team in the Department of Climate Change;
- in Timor Leste we have Hipolito Amaral Ximenes who has been engaged by the National Directorate

for Climate Change under a Partnership Agreement with SPREP to provide project coordination and our RCO Leonardo Rosa ; and

- in Vanuatu we have Project Officer Jackson Tambe, RCO Morris Harrison and recently appointed Forestry Officer Ioan Viji Vutilolo working with the Departments of Climate Change and Forestry.

This team of local experts provides the eyes and ears for implementing partners as they can quickly identify project opportunities and challenges until such time Fiji, Samoa and New Caledonia-based project teams can join them on the ground again for country visits.

We are also looking to engage local consultants where possible to undertake work, or international consultants who have counterparts on the ground to work with local stakeholders.

Virtual meetings have provided a great opportunity to work more closely with a broader range of stakeholders across the region.

However, we are conscious of the risk of 'virtual meeting fatigue' and so will be strategic and considerate in the way we schedule virtual events in 2021.

Regional PACRES highlights since our first PACRES newsletter include:

- SPREP and the Swiss Confederation signed an Agreement in the amount of USD100,000 (€85,441) to build capacity on climate change related migration, displacement and planned relocation for resilient development;
- SPREP also signed an Agreement with the Principality of Monaco in the amount of €360,000, the first €90,000 of which is co-financing with PACRES adding a new marine component to the scaling up of climate change adaptation pilots, including ecosystem-based adaptation solutions.
- Completed elaboration of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) in line with the Paris Agreement and review of the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) governance arrangements called for by Pacific Forum Leaders. This will enable a better understanding of the FRDP and its complementarity with the Paris Agreement and other relevant global frameworks.

- On-line advocacy of the FRDP and PRP through online consultation convened in Kiribati with the aim of replicating in other countries.
- Successful PRP webinars held on the Pacific Regional Federation of Resilience Professionals and Pacific stories of displacement & human mobility.
- Revitalised the PRP webpage and reactivated the PRP Facebook page. Web: <http://www.resilientpacific.org/pacific-resilience-partnership/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PacificResiliencePartnership>
- Risk Financing TWG developing database on how the pandemic has shaped risk financing.
- Human Mobility TWG completed internal mapping of member services and capabilities and is identifying gaps and opportunities for further synergies.
- TWG after Risk Governance – Pacific Regional Response Mapping Research exercise completed and mapping of climate change, DRM and health emergencies legislation and their preparedness to respond to different types of hazards with an added focus on pandemics and outbreaks underway.
- Localisation TWG - research/mapping exercise on humanitarian localisation activities conducted by partners at the national level across the region through an online survey.
- FRDP M&E Consultancy produced four case-studies (Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, Kiribati) measuring and monitoring national resilience and regional scorecards and indicators.
- USP convened Gender and Human Rights Workshop, 25-27 November with 43 participants (27 female and 16 male). Some participants met face-to-face in Suva while others joined virtually.
- A TVET Resilience qualifications workshop was held in Nadi, at which experts recommended a Nested or

Articulated Qualification for existing Levels 1-4 in which levels 1-2 and 3-4 would be collapsed but with exit points for students who opt to exit in L1 and L3 respectively. The pathway of progression will continue in Levels 5-6.

- USP delivered a Climate Finance Course. 14 students (7 female and 7 male) enrolled and 9 passed the course.
- Mapping of private sector engagement in climate change in Tonga completed
- Convened the virtual Micronesia sub-regional private sector climate finance workshop with the Government of Nauru as the co-host in October 2020 to identify opportunities for collaboration at the national level in Micronesian countries.

In Papua New Guinea:

- Consultancy signed to build resilience to climate change and natural disasters in Karama and nearby communities in the Malalau District with work to commence in 2021.
- Call for SPC grants closed.

In Samoa:

- SPREP signed a Partnership Agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to enhance water security in Matautau villages;
- Consultancy to undertake ESRAM-style assessment (see related story) around the community of Saleaula commenced. Field work and first community consultations conducted.

In Solomon Islands:

- the SPREP PACRES Project Officer commenced.
- Consultancy to extend the boundaries of the Barana Nature and Heritage Park was completed.

- Consultancies to develop Honiara Botanical Gardens Landscape Master Plan and Honiara CBD Greening and Landscaping Master Plan commenced.
- Consultancy to review Solomon Islands' NDC and National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) completed.

- SPC grantees have been selected.

In Timor-Leste

- SPREP signed a Partnership Agreement with National Directorate for Climate Change (NDCC) to provide project coordination services and undertake Integrated Vulnerability Assessments (IVAs).
- Four Integrated Vulnerability Assessments undertaken by NDCC (see related story) and assessment of options to enhance water security in the communities of Larisula and Haupu commenced.

In Vanuatu

- Nursery Officer commenced to provide technical support to extend and manage the Tagabe Forestry Nursery for PACRES
- Consultancy to review Vanuatu's Department of Climate Change organisational structure and inter-sectoral arrangements signed but not yet commenced.
- The call for grants proposal has been approved by the National Advisory Board.

We also continue to work closely with our funding partners and take the opportunity to welcome Noa Sainz Lopez as our new PACRES programme manager at the EU Delegation in Fiji. In January SPREP and USP participated in the second Intra-ACP GCCA+ Programme Steering Committee Meeting where we had the opportunity to highlight PACRES support to review Solomon Islands' NDC.

2021 will be a crucial year in the implementation of PACRES activities and the PACRES team looks forward to continue working collaboratively with our partners throughout the year - ongoing COVID-19 constraints notwithstanding!

"Climate-driven displacement isn't some distant doomsday proposition. It is happening right now. In response, we have to change and adapt as quickly as the climate. To do that, we need the support of the rest of the world. And as the Chair for the Platform of Disaster Displacement Fiji looks forwards to leading alongside our development partners and organisations, like the Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security, not by talking – but by doing"

The Prime Minister of Fiji on Internal Displacement

Pacific Regional Consultation on Internal Displacement 2021



Photo Courtesy of PIFS

The Prime Minister of Fiji, Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama opening remarks to the Pacific regional consultation with the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

Pacific Resilience Partnership

This newsletter focuses on the PRP Human Mobility Technical Working Group co-chaired by Ms Sabira Coelho, Programme Manager (Migration and Climate Change) of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Fiji and Gabor Sasvari, Program Coordinator, Sectoral and Global Programmes Department of GIZ Fiji. The purpose of the TWG is to strengthen regional collaboration, promote best practices and the exchange of lessons learned in terms of human mobility linked to the effects of climate change and disasters in the Pacific.

It was established in 2019 following the 2019 Pacific Resilience Meeting (PRM) responding to the PRM outcome calling for all partners to address issues of climate-driven and disaster-induced displacement and planned relocation. It builds on the 2008 Niue Declaration and the Nansen Initiative Pacific Regional Consultation (2013) with the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management 2017-2030 (FRDP) providing broad policy guidelines on issues of climate change and disaster induced human mobility.

Currently the TWG on Human Mobility has a membership of more than thirty Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and development partners.

On February 11th, 2021 the TWG in partnership with the High-Level Panel (HLP) on Internal Displacement organized a Pacific regional consultation on the issue of internal displacement. It was a platform for government officials to present on country-specific best practices, lessons learnt and challenges related to internal displacement.

It also provided an opportunity for government officials to dialogue with the HLP members on how such consultation would inform the outcome report including recommendations and overall work of the UN SG HLP. The consultation itself was a demonstration of strong collaboration through the PRP and in particular through the TWG focusing on a specific aspect of resilience. It also showcased a practical and tangible example of the potential value-add of the PRP TWG and in this particular case serving as a regional expert platform with the capacity to support governments and partners on the issue of internal displacement including through enabling

our national governments to dialogue directly with this global mechanism.

In the lead up to the Pacific regional consultation, the TWG on Human Mobility organized 2 webinars with the first webinar highlighting stories of resilience, recovery and solutions in the context of internal displacement. It brought to the fore the reality and complexity of disaster and climate related displacement in Titiana (Solomon Islands), Vunidogoloa (Fiji), Ping Lap atoll (Federated States of Micronesia), and the Bikini atoll (Republic of the Marshall Islands). The second webinar heard perspectives from non-government organisations, academia and UN agencies highlighting the need to address data and knowledge gaps on internal displacement in the Pacific. It unpacked some of these issues, gaps and challenges while also exploring some of the best practices to address these data and knowledge gaps.



PACRES supports Integrated Vulnerability Assessments in Timor-Leste

In December 2020, PACRES funded Integrated Vulnerability Assessments (IVAs) in four rural communities in Timor-Leste. Conducted by the National Directorate of Climate Change (NDCC), IVAs are an important planning tool to identify priority adaptation options in Timor-Leste.

IVAs use the methodology developed by the University of the South Pacific in 2017 under the EU's USP GCCA Project, known as the Pacific Island Integrated Vulnerability Assessment Framework. The framework identifies indicators that measure exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity to climate change and is used in Timor-Leste to gather information on climate change at the village level through community observations and experience. The assessment helps IVA facilitators and the community determine which livelihood assets are most vulnerable to climate

change in order to identify focus areas for adaptation and priorities for action.

The IVAs were conducted in the communities of Uacala and Samalari in Baucau Municipality and Iliomar I and Lore I in Lautem Municipality. They were led by NDCC Director Augusto Pinto and took place over two-days in each community, with four sessions comprising awareness raising on the impacts and effects of climate change, participatory focus groups after which the facilitators developed a results matrix based on the discussion, presentation of the matrix followed by a Q & A session, and GIS data collection.

In his presentation to the community of Iliomar I, Director Pinto explained the results of the IVA analysis compiled during focus group discussion, which identified food security as the most vulnerable livelihood.

The results of the IVAs will be used to inform government and donors on priority areas for action in each community, with further IVAs to be conducted by the NDCC with PACRES funding in 2021.

“ The assessment helps IVA facilitators and the community determine which livelihood assets are most vulnerable to climate change in order to identify focus areas for adaptation and priorities for action. ”



PACRES in Vanuatu

In this edition of the PACRES newsletter, we explore in more detail, PACRES activities in Vanuatu. In future newsletters we will look at PACRES's work in Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste, where PACRES is scaling up adaptation pilots, including Ecosystem-based Approaches.

PACRES activities in Vanuatu are focused around the national capital of Port Vila and the Tagabe River watershed. In Vanuatu PACRES is being delivered jointly by SPREP, SPC and USP in partnership with Vanuatu's Department of Climate Change (DoCC) within the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology, Geo-Hazards, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management. PACRES is also working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity.

On the ground in Port Vila the PACRES team comprises Project Officer Jackson Tambe, the USP RCO Officer Morris Harrison and Ioan Viji Vutilolo who was recently engaged as Forestry Officer to oversee nursery expansion and planting of seedlings. Our team works under the guidance of Vanuatu's Climate Change

Director, Mike Waiwai.

Scaling up adaptation pilots and Ecosystem-based Approaches

During the design mission to Port Vila in July 2019 DoCC and SPREP agreed PACRES will build on and extend activities from the PEBACC and International Waters Ridge to Reef (R2R) projects. This includes:

- Building on Tagabe riverbank stabilisation and riparian zone rehabilitation initiated by PEBACC and R2R
- Nursery expansion, planting and reforestation in the Tagabe watershed and selected urban and peri-urban areas of Port Vila and protection of coastal vegetation at the Tagabe River mouth and Fatumaru Bay
- Development of the Tagabe River Integrated Catchment Management Plan (ICMP) and an Urban Greening Master Plan for Port Vila; and

- Implementation of at least one priority activity under the ICMP

Development of the Tagabe River ICMP is underway and a Request for Tender will shortly be issued for expansion of the Tagabe Forestry Nursery to facilitate planting seedlings and wildlings, including coastal species in 2021 and 2022. Forestry Officer Ioan is also planning for seedling collection and propagation once the nursery expansion is completed and after that engagement of communities and other groups in planting out the seedlings.

The PEBACC and R2R projects initiated the revegetation of the riparian zones along the Tagabe river to stabilise the riverbank, providing shade to the river and safeguarding important aquatic habitats and reduce erosion. PACRES will scaleup previous initiatives and implement innovative nature-based approaches for riverbank stabilisation and ecosystem-based

adaptation approaches for riparian zone restoration.

The SPREP component of PACRES is also supporting a review of DoCC's organisational structure and inter-sectoral arrangements to support ecosystem-based climate change adaptation solutions and aims to provide training and strengthen coordination between Government, non-state actors and the private sector in ecosystem-based adaptation planning and implementation.

PACRES Awareness Raising Sessions

USP's RCO, Morris organised a series of awareness raising sessions across the PACRES sites in Vanuatu between August and October 2020 in collaboration with PACRES Project Officer Jackson, the R2R Project Officer, Ericksen Packett, DoCC and the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation. The awareness sessions were carried out through the Tagabe River Management Committee, in an effort to continue the Locally Managed Climate Change Adaptation network that the Committee supports. A total of 106 people, 69 females and 37 males, from 10 communities participated in the awareness sessions. The communities were from Tagabe, Efate, Blacksands, Ohlen and Ifira regions.

In addition to introducing PACRES, these sessions aimed to raise general climate change adaptation awareness across the participating communities. Topics included water resource management, ecosystem services, sustainability, enhanced livelihoods through good ecosystem management practices, river, riparian zone and coastal management and waste management. During the sessions, an effort was made to identify potential change agents at the various awareness sites, to proactively drive climate change adaptation and disaster risk management networks to promote a community of best practices across the PACRES sites. The participating communities harmoniously welcomed PACRES and all it aims to accomplish over the next two years. Participants were particularly enthusiastic about PACRES's

capacity development activities.

Capacity Needs Assessments across PACRES sites

Focused Group Discussions have also been conducted across PACRES sites to identify capacity needs associated with climate change adaptation and disaster risk management. Morris facilitated these capacity needs assessments in Whitesands, Blacksand Community, Port Vila, Pango, Southwest Efate, Blacksands Bridge Side River Community, Destination Community, Tagabe and Erromango Benuar Community. A total of 62 participants, 28 females and 34 males, participated in the FGDs between August and October 2020. Discussion included urban greening, particularly backyard gardening. Key capacity needs associated with backyard gardening were identified to be management, book-keeping and lack of knowledge and technical expertise associated with composting, tree planting, nursery management and nutrition. Follow up short training sessions are planned for these communities in 2021 to address some of the identified capacity needs.

Grants Facility

SPREP and USP activities described above are also complemented by SPC's Grants Facility, the focus of which was approved by Vanuatu's National Advisory Board in December 2020. The call for grants was published in early 2021 and focuses on scaling up adaptation projects on urban food security in Port Vila. This includes:

- home gardening (like the ones identified in the PEBACC project),
- food security, including but not limited to protecting and promoting resilient livelihoods to ensure adequate food availability,
- activities to improve utilization with a focus on nutritional status, enhancing stability through vulnerability and risk reduction and management,
- climate smart agriculture; and

- cooking fuel efficiency.

The Vanuatu Climate Action Network held a workshop on 8 February to help its members answer the call for proposals.

Tonga concludes mapping of private sector activities

Tonga completed its mapping of private sector activities related to climate change in October 2020. With support of the Government of Tonga and the Chamber of Commerce, the mapping was focused on identifying barriers constraining business capacity to manage climate risks and development of strategies to strengthen the capacity of Tonga businesses to manage climate risks. Bilateral consultations with key stakeholders in Nukualofa and a stakeholder workshop were part of the mapping exercise. Close to 40 participants from all sectors in Tonga participated in the national consultations. A private sector options paper was endorsed by the Government of Tonga and the Chamber of Commerce which will provide strategic guidance for private sector development in managing climate risks.

Similar mapping reports for Cook Islands and Solomon Islands have been finalised and published and can be found here:

<https://www.forumsec.org/regional-reports-and-frameworks-of-the-pacific-islands-forum/>

Dr Aleni Fepuleai sampling the seawater at Saleaula



Ecosystem and Socio-Economic Resilience Analysis and Mapping around the community of Saleaula in Samoa

PACRES has funded the first Ecosystem and Socio-Economic Resilience Analysis and Mapping (ESRAM) style assessment in Samoa around the community of Saleaula in Savaii.

The assessment has been adapted from the ESRAM methodology developed under the German funded Pacific Ecosystem-Based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) Project implemented by SPREP in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

An ESRAM assessment can include:

- identification of ecosystems, ecosystem services, community dependencies and existing threats;
- identification of socio-economic and governance factors;
- a current state analysis of ecosystems, trends and drivers of change;

- ecosystem service valuations;
- climate change vulnerability assessment; and
- recommendations for EbA options.

The area around Saleaula was chosen for the assessment by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) of the Government of Samoa in mid 2020. The area includes a sand spit peninsula that provides protection from storm surge but also acts as a barrier to the free flow of water in and out of the bay.

The assessment was conducted by PACRES consultant Dr Aleni Fepuleai from 17-19 November 2020 and following the assessment, a community consultation was held on 20 November to discuss results of the assessment. It was opened by the MNRE Assistant Chief Executive Officer for the Climate Change and GEF Division, Ms Anne Rasmussen, and attracted 74 participants including the village council, the local women and girls group and youth of Saleaula.

Participants were divided into three groups to discuss how they felt about the sand spit peninsula, the flow from the nearby Salei'a River and what can be improved environmentally. Knowledge sharing was productive and successful with positive feedback from the community.

Results of Dr Fepuleai's findings will be reported back to the Sale'aula community shortly after water testing by the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa. The findings also will inform us about the impact of climate change, environmental variation and geomorphological/geological activities in this part of Savaii.

After a final report by Dr Fepuleai, MNRE and SPREP will consider which of the recommended options will be funded by PACRES.