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Newsletter



PACRES Project building Tuvalu's resilience to adapt to climate change

A project which exists to improve regional, national adaptation, and mitigation solutions to climate change in 15 Pacific countries has provided critical assistance to the tiny island of Tuvalu to battle the climate crisis.

Tuvalu, an archipelago of nine islands, which are home to 12,000 residents, is actively threatened by rising sea levels, as well as other extreme weather events.

For the past few years, the European Union-funded Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) Project team has been working with the Department of Climate Change in the Ministry of Finance, Government of Tuvalu, to build the atoll nation's capacity to adapt to climate change and build resilience.

This resulted in the development of the Tuvalu Climate Change Policy and M&E Framework which was launched in November 2022. The work also led to the upgrade and maintenance of Tuvalu's Climate Change Portal, which is now being updated regularly by the Tuvalu Department of Climate Change with assistance from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

PACRES, funded primarily by the European Union (EU) with targeted support from Monaco and the Swiss Confederation, is delivered jointly by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Pacific Community (SPC) and the

University of the South Pacific (USP).

Mr. Semi Qamese, PACRES Manager, and Ms. Emma Arasi-Sua, PACRES Information and Knowledge Management Officer, recently traveled to Funafuti, Tuvalu, to complete project activities.

The team met with Ms. Litiana Talake, Acting Director of the Climate Change Department, Mr. Penivao Lonesi, Data and Information Officer for the Climate Change Department, and Ms. Lisiana Tausegia, Admin and Finance Officer.

"We are already witnessing the beneficial impacts of the work being done in our Pacific communities, in this case Tuvalu," said Mr. Qamese.

"We've had a very fruitful discussion with our Tuvalu counterparts who have benefited from the development of the Tuvalu Climate Change Policy and M&E Framework. Tuvalu's Climate Change Department has embedded the policy in their continued adaptation work to implement measures to enhance the local community livelihood and to promote sustainable development by reducing adverse effects of climate change.

To read more click on the link below:

<https://www.sprep.org/news/pacres-project-building-tuvalus-resilience-to-adapt-to-climate-change>

EU PACRES programme graduates its first scholarship recipient and gold medalist in the Master of Climate Change Programme



Every student has a story to tell. Each year during graduation, we celebrate those graduates who have gone the extra mile to achieve their dreams.

Born and raised on the outskirts of Bulileka, Labasa, in a small town in the province of Macuata on Vanua Levu's beautiful Island, Mr. Rahul Ravneel Prasad had no idea he would be awarded the European Union Intra-ACP GCCA Plus Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) programme scholarship when he applied for the Masters Scholarship in Climate Change at the Pacific Centre of Environment and Sustainable Development (PaCE-SD) back in 2019.

Rahul's research has broad and specific implications. It is specific because it adds to our understanding of the growth and development of the sugarcane crop in Fiji, particularly how climate change is and will continue to impact sugarcane growth and development.

His research also investigates various adaptation strategies that could assist farmers in dealing with and adapting to climate change.

This is the first study to incorporate traditional knowledge of sugarcane farmers as input data into a sugar cane crop model in order to simulate the effects of climate variability and change on cane growth and development. The sugar cane crop model processed and shows outputs based on not only the climate (historical and projected daily temperature, rainfall, solar radiation)-genetics-soil relationships but most importantly representing the local context of farmer's farm and crop management and yield.

To read more click on the link below:

<https://www.usp.ac.fj/news/eu-pacres-programme-graduates-its-first-scholarship-recipient-and-gold-medalist-in-the-master-of-climate-change-programme/>

Tree planting on Tagabe riverbanks increasing Vanuatu's climate change resilience



The Tagabe river is critical to Vanuatu's ecosystem, supplying fresh water to a population of over 50,000 in Port Vila and its nearby suburbs. But as climate change worsens, the river continues to be severely impacted placing the livelihoods of communities who depend on this supply of freshwater at risk.

For this reason, the European Union-funded Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) project is building on and extending activities implemented by the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC Phase 1) promoting the use of EbA approaches to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to climate change in Vanuatu.

The project team has been working with Vanuatu's Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology, Geo-Hazards, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management (MCCAMGEEDM), Ministry of Agriculture Livestock Forestry Fisheries & Biosecurity (MALFFB) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) to improve the country's national adaptation and mitigation solutions to climate change.

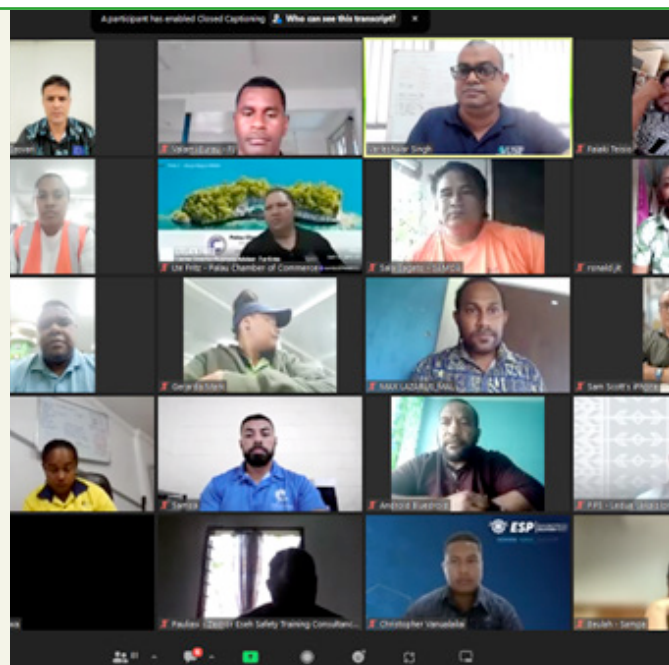
One of the many activities undertaken involves tree planting on the Tagabe riverbanks and riparian zones, as well as other chosen PACRES sites from the lower to the upper ridges of the Tagabe watershed including the UNELCO area which is the main water source for Port Vila. The goal is to improve and rehabilitate ecosystems to give communities in the area a fighting chance to withstand the challenges brought about by the climate crisis.

The PACRES Project team recently visited Vanuatu to assess progress and determine the next steps. The visit comes on the after cyclones Judy and Kevin, devastated Vanuatu one after the other.

The assessment noted the excellent progress in the nursery and replanting in chosen areas of Port Vila, including the Tagabe River. Given the fact that of the trees planted as part of the project were small and growing, many of them were spared from the impact of the cyclones.

To read more click on the link below:

<https://www.sprep.org/news/tree-planting-on-tagabe-riverbanks-increasing-vanuatus-climate-change-resilience>



Climate Resilience for Business Sustainability Training for the Private Sector

More than one hundred participants from across the Pacific region are currently enrolled in a tailor-made climate resilience for sustainability training programme. The participants represent the private sector in the region and are beneficiaries of these virtual training programme which focuses on climate change and its impact on Pacific business.

Adaptation and mitigation strategies as well as enabling participants to identify and tap into funding sources to implement climate adaptation measures for organizational sustainability, will be key components of the training.

The course covers a range of topics aimed at equipping participants with knowledge, tools, and techniques in areas of alternative energy options, food security, data analysis, and business sustainability.

Upon completion of all twelve modules of this training, participants will receive a certificate of completion from USP Pacific TAFE.

To read more click on the link below:

<https://www.forumsec.org/2023/02/08/remarks-climate-resilience-for-business-sustainability-training-programme/>

Stakeholders Consultation on the PACRES Project activities for the Federated of State of Micronesia Chamber of Commerce (FSMACC) and the Palau Chamber of Commerce



The PACRES Project continued its mission in Koror, Palau from 21st - 22nd of March, meeting key stakeholders from the Chamber of Commerce, Palau Entrepreneurs for Growth, and the Office of Climate Change to discuss opportunities to better engage the private sector in climate change and resilience.

The two specific activities for Palau agreed during the mission are the national private sector mapping for climate change and resilience and the 2nd Micronesia Sub-regional Private Sector Climate Finance Workshop proposed in the second quarter in Koror.

Mr. Herman Semes, Executive Director of the FSMACC acknowledged the visit and discussions with key stakeholders in the state and national governments and the private sector over 3 days in Pohnpei. Despite capacity limitation, the FSMACC is keen to progress on two activities planned for FSM i.e., the national private sector mapping of climate change and resilience initiatives and the public-private sector dialogue to be held in Pohnpei.

“Thank you so much for understanding our private sector concerns and coming up in person to visit us and help us deal with our challenges. I am sure that we can develop organizational relationships and networking that will help

our efforts in building our national and state chambers of commerce. We are aware that not only FSMACC faces organizational capacity challenges, but there are other small national chambers, such as ours in FSM, also facing similar challenges”, said Mr. Semese.

Ms. Ltlatk Fritz, President of Palau Chamber of Commerce (PCOC) stressed the importance of country ownership through the Government, she said “in order for the planned activities to happen, Government leadership and expertise through the Office of Climate Change is much appreciated in guiding PCOC to strengthen the bridge between public and private sectors in Palau and our blue continent”.

Overall, the mission was successful where the planned activities for FSM and Palau were agreed and to be progressed within the year. These activities will help strengthen engagement between the public and private sectors including awareness about the roles of private sector in building resilience and access to climate change resources.

To read more click on the link below:

<https://pohnpeistate.gov.fm/2023/03/17/governor-oliver-and-lt-governor-ioanis-welcome-mr-ledua-vakaloloma-from-the-pacific-islands-forum-secretariat/>

Putting community resilience at the heart of the EU PACRES project interventions



The Pacific Islands are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and direct security impacts which include diminished access to fresh water, local food supply, and coastal infrastructure damage.

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is already vulnerable to a variety of natural hazards, and climate variability and change may exacerbate their occurrence.

This sentiment was echoed during the launch of the interventions in Karama village in PNG's Gulf Province on 31 March 2023. The interventions were deemed successful by PNG's Vice Minister for Petroleum, Honourable Thomas Opa, in a joint mission by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) team, which is currently in PNG meeting with key stakeholders, community representatives, and change agents for the PACRES programme.

In his opening remarks, the Honourable Minister, Mr. Thomas Opa, acknowledged the importance of collaboration, saying: "We are privileged to have the PACRES team here in Karama, a project that is driven by the community for the community."

"PACRES has chosen this humble community as your pilot project, and we will be eternally grateful." Adding, "On behalf of my people, we thank you for delivering this project on safe and clean water for my people."

To read more click on the link below:

<https://www.sprep.org/news/putting-community-resilience-at-the-heart-of-the-eu-pacres-project-interventions>

Workshop on Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events for Private Sector Engagement



The Samoa Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) in partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) through the support from the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) Project, coordinated a workshop on Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events for Private Sector Engagement.

The workshop objectives were to raise private sector awareness on climate science risks and extreme weather events, as well as identify the role of the private sector in national strategies that address climate change under key development sectors such as agriculture, tourism, energy, transport, and environment.

The Samoa Chamber is appreciative of these opportunities and the assistance of the Government and our regional partners in interacting with businesses about climate change-related issues and exchanging best practices in disaster risk management and mitigation strategies.

To read more click on the link below:

<https://www.resilientpacific.org/en/news/private-sector-engagement-government-climate-change-adaptation>

Work to strengthen Palau's climate change response continues as EU-funded projects explore synergies



The European Union-funded Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) Project team is continuing the work to improve regional, national adaptation and mitigation solutions to climate change in the Pacific region.

The first part of the mission is to review the progress of the project in Palau, one of the countries where the €12 million European Union-funded project is making a tangible difference in the island nation's fight to survive the climate crisis.

The work is being implemented by the Palau Office of Climate Change within the Ministry of Finance (MOF) – Bureau of Budget and Planning, with support from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). Palau's Office of Climate Change has the mandate to mainstream climate change in national government plans and strategies, as well as coordinate, report, and advocate climate change efforts and priorities domestically, regionally, and internationally.

In line with this mandate, Palau developed its first national policy, Palau Climate Change Policy: For Climate and Disaster Resilient Low Emissions Development (PCCP) in 2015.

The policy has been used as the basis for assessments, strategies, and plans including but not limited to the Climate Change in Palau: Indicators & Consideration for Key Sectors, the Koror-Babeldaob Island Resilient Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan and the National Disaster Risk Management Framework.

Mr. Semi Qamese, PACRES Manager, met with Mr. Xavier Matsutaro, Palau's National Climate Change Coordinator and Palau Focal Point to the UNFCCC, to discuss the successes, challenges, and next steps.

To read more click on the link below:

<https://www.sprep.org/news/work-to-strengthen-palau-s-climate-change-response-continues-as-eu-funded-projects-explore-synergies>

Placing Community Resilience at the heart of project intervention: EU PACRES USP Samoa Mission a Success



The University of the South Pacific programme team recently visited Samoa, conducting consultations, interviews, and site visits with key PACRES beneficiaries. The team was well received by the Government of Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and local communities in Savai'i, who have been instrumental in the implementation of the PACRES Project.

The trip allowed the project team to gather lessons learned from implementation of the capacity building component of the PACRES Programme in Samoa, particularly across the eight communities in Savai'i. The lessons learned are crucial to further strengthen future capacity building work and engagements in the country but more importantly when dealing with vulnerable communities.

The activities and implementation of the USP PACRES programme would not have been possible without the collaboration and support of MNRE, United Nations Development Programme, local communities and the USP Alafua Campus in achieving the programme's goals of developing an integrated approach to addressing Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management in the Pacific-ACP region.

To read more click on the link below:

<https://www.usp.ac.fj/pace-sd/2023/03/24/eu-pacres-usp-samoa-mission-a-success-placing-community-resilience-at-the-heart-of-project-intervention/>

New postgraduate course on Geospatial Data Applications for Environmental Planning and Management offered by PaCE-SD



I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the USP PACRES Project for funding the Geospatial Applications for the Environmental Planning and Management course. The course has helped me to develop a deeper understanding of geospatial technologies and how they can be used to address real-world problems and make better decisions. I was very impressed by the teaching team and their expertise in the field of geospatial technologies and the ability to present complex topics in an engaging manner.

Tamarisi Korolijuta
PC 440 - Geospatial Applications for the Environmental Planning and Management Student



Mapping has altered our perception of location and is one of the most useful decision-making tools. They aid us in our travels and are becoming more integrated into our daily lives.

The European Union-funded Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience (PACRES) programme, through the University of the South Pacific (USP) component, supported the development of an online postgraduate course on Geospatial Data Applications for Environmental Planning & Management (PC440).

The postgraduate course focuses on geospatial applications of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing concepts for environmental planning and management, using a variety of proprietary and open-source tools.

A total of 8 students from Fiji (7) and Vanuatu (1) successfully completed the course in its first delivery in Semester II, 2022.

To read more click on the link below:

<https://www.usp.ac.fj/news/new-postgraduate-course-on-geospatial-data-applications-for-environmental-planning-and-management-offered-by-pace-sd/>

Helping the Keapara Community Deal with 'Lived Reality' of Climate Change



The 'lived reality' of climate change impacts on Pacific communities is hard to ignore. One of many examples in the region is the Keapara community in the Central Province of Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Situated on a protruding land mass (island), the community is linked to the mainland by a narrow strip of land that is frequently submerged during high tides. Due to its geographical location, access to fresh water has been a major problem, one of many challenges they are facing as a result of sea level rise associated with climate change.

But help is at hand through the European Union Intra-ACP GCCA Plus Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) Project.

The Keapara community comprises of three village hamlets adjacent to each other, namely Karawa, Alukuni and Keapara. Water supply has been a major challenge for the community made worse by climate change. Under an EU-GIZ Adapting to Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (ACSE) project, several water tanks were provided to try and alleviate the problem. However, Karawa and Alukuni villages were not party to that arrangement.

PNG's Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA) has since identified the Keapara community for scaling up work and as part of the work done through the PACRES project, 80 water tanks (3500litres capacity) with associated materials, have been installed in the community.

One water tank has been installed per two households and members of the Keapara community now have access to clean drinking water, supplementing the existing bore water system.

Solar streetlights have also been strategically installed in the

communal areas within the villages as power sources and for safe mobility and security. The project costs USD54,000.

"We're excited to support the Keapara Community, these are real people with real lives that are impacted by climate change," said PACRES Project Manager, Mr. Semi Qamese. "We are grateful that funding from the European Union is making a positive difference in our Pacific communities."

Last week, a joint mission of the PACRES Project teams from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) visited the Keapara community. The delegation met with key stakeholders, community representatives, and change agents to discuss project objectives and planned activities.

The site visit is crucial as it enabled the team to learn more about the community setting, leadership structures, validate information gathered during the feasibility study last year as well as observe first-hand the impacts of climate change on the livelihood of the Keapara community.

The joint mission was led by the CCDA team, who have working closely with the two regional organisations in the implementation of the PACRES project in PNG.

To read more click on the link below:

<https://www.sprep.org/news/helping-the-keapara-community-deal-with-lived-reality-of-climate-change>

The First for the Pacific- “A benchmarking trip fostering TVET and sustainable practices to climate-resilient societies



The Pacific Community's (SPC) Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilient Building (PACRES) project organized a benchmarking study tour called “A benchmarking trip fostering TVET and sustainable practices to climate-resilient societies.” The event was financed under the European Union's Intra-African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) Global Climate Change Alliance+ (GCCA+) Programme, and 16 delegates from Fiji, Samoa, and the Solomon Islands gathered for a four-day trip around Viti Levu to share and exchange information on best practices.

The participants presented their country papers and learned from lectures by experts at SPC, including orientation on newly accredited Diplomas and Certificates in Resilience and training on Geographic Information System (GIS) and data analysis.

During site visits, the delegates saw sustainable practices on Tilapia farming and energy production with the use of biogas at Kaybees aquaculture farm in Nakasi, learned about the importance of weather forecasting and witnessed the release of the weather balloon to gather atmospheric data at the Fiji Meteorological office in Nadi, and visited the villages of Semo in Nadroga and Vanuakula in Tavua, where they met villagers who were part of interventions under the PACRES Community of Practice initiative.

The delegates also visited Koroipita Model Town in Lautoka, where they were enriched with a holistic approach that the occupants have been supported to deal with poverty, education barriers, and social issues such as discrimination, disabilities, and abuse.

The participants shared their best practices in their respective sectors and countries, discussed lessons learned, and are determined to continue their journey of continuous improvement. The benchmarking trip was an effective avenue for knowledge and information sharing and networking amongst the Pacific TVET and Resilience professionals. The PACRES project is set to implement two more batches of the benchmarking trip later this year to spread the gospel of Resilience in Education and build a resilient Pacific through best practices.

To read more click on the link below:

<https://www.sprep.org/news/helping-the-keapara-community-deal-with-lived-reality-of-climate-change>

Progress of work to improve Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in 15 countries Pacific countries commended



Whether it is providing water tanks for villages in Papua New Guinea (PNG), tree planting on the Tagabe riverbank in Vanuatu to ensure steady supply of freshwater for communities there or providing support for climate change negotiations in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the progress of a project to improve regional, national adaptation and mitigation solutions to climate change concerns was commended during a meeting in Fiji.

The project is the European Union-funded Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) which serves communities in 15 Pacific countries, namely the Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

To read more click on the link below:

<https://www.sprep.org/news/putting-community-resilience-at-the-heart-of-the-eu-pacres-project-interventions>

PACRES Provides Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Awareness Training for Change Agents in the Solomon Islands



The University of the South Pacific (USP) recently held a two-day training in the Solomon Islands as part of the European Union-funded Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) programme to ensure that participants understand and can facilitate evidence-based advocacy in order to build resilience in their communities, organizations, and institutions, as well as develop and integrate climate change and disaster response plans or disaster preparedness.

A total of 31 community leaders and change agents (19 males, and 12 females) from Solomon Islands participated in a two-day climate change and awareness training at the Barana Community Center.

The EU PACRES Programme trained and raised awareness about climate change and natural hazards (and disasters) among community leaders and change agents in order to build resilient communities against the effects of climate change and future disasters.

To read more click on the link below:

<https://www.usp.ac.fj/news/climate-change-and-disaster-risk-management-awareness/>