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Introducing PACRES



About PACRES

The €12.18 million Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) is funded primarily by the European Union (€12 million) with targeted support from Monaco and the Swiss Confederation.

PACRES aims to ensure better regional and national adaptation and mitigation responses to climate change challenges facing Pacific ACP countries¹. It is being 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) through mid-2023.

PACRES support to enhance resilience to climate change and natural disasters is being delivered through a range of regional and national activities.

¹ The 15 Pacific ACP countries are: Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Pacific Resilience Partnership

PACRES is strengthening regional coordination in climate change and disaster resilience through the multi-stakeholder Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) for the effective implementation of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) - an integrated approach to address climate change and disaster risk management.

In practice, this involves supporting the PRP Governance Arrangement endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in 2017 to bring together stakeholders in a more coordinated and structured manner. PACRES is supporting:

- the PRP Support Unit (comprising PIFS, SPREP and SPC), including dedicated PRP/FRDP Coordinators at PIFS and SPREP;
- the multi-stakeholder PRP Taskforce with its unique composition, embracing the principle of inclusion, reflected in its equal representation of civil society and the private sector alongside government, regional agencies and partners of which the EU represents the development partners;
- the PRP Technical Working Groups (TWGs) set up to respond to five identified priority issues: Disaster Risk Finance, Human Mobility, Information and Knowledge Management, Localisation and Risk Governance. This includes co-financing from the Swiss Confederation to build capacity on climate change related migration, displacement and planned relocation for resilient development through the Human Mobility TWG;
- the biennial Pacific Resilience Meeting, that brings together stakeholders to elevate and demonstrate Pacific-led resilience actions that inspire learning and connection through diverse and inclusive approaches from our home to the global stage. PACRES was the major supporter of the 2021 PRM, held virtually with national hubs from 6 – 8 July with a pre-PRM Youth meeting on 5 July <http://www.resilientpacific.org/2021-prm/>;
- Ongoing communication and advocacy, knowledge sharing and learning to drive improved and coherent resilience actions through PRP webinars (for more details: www.resilientpacific.org): and
- Developing the FRDP M & E Framework to ensure the quality, effectiveness and integrity of resilience building regionally. Once the Framework has been approved, PACRES will develop an FRDP M & E e-learning course based on the Framework.

Scaling up climate change adaptation pilots

PACRES is scaling up climate change adaptation pilots, including ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) solutions in Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu. These are the five Pacific ACP countries not receiving support to scale up adaptation pilots under PACRES's partner project - GCCA+ Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (SUPA). It is hoped these pilots will serve as references for further scaling up in the region. In addition to the pilots, SPC has a supporting grants facility and USP is building capacity at local and sub-national levels.

PACRES also aims to integrate adaptation/EbA across national, sub-national and community level resilience and sustainable development plans and strategies. To date, this has included support to revise Solomon Islands' NDC and National Climate Change Policy and develop the Masamasa-Falelima National Park Management Plan in Samoa.

In Vanuatu PACRES will conduct training for government and non-state actors in joint planning to strengthen coordination for implementing EbA solutions using PACRES work around Port Vila as a 'field-laboratory' to gain experience in multi-agency cooperation, planning and implementation.

Adaptation pilots being scaled up through PACRES and the SPC grants have a focus on EbA solutions, including shoreline protection and food security and enhancing water security.

In Papua New Guinea PACRES will work in the coastal community of Karama and nearby communities in Gulf Province to build resilience to climate change and natural disasters. This builds on earlier support for Karama community delivered by the Climate Change Development Authority (CCDA) and its predecessor. SPC grants will fund projects to enhance ecosystem-based shoreline protection and food security in the Gulf and Central Provinces.

In Solomon Islands and Vanuatu PACRES is scaling up EbA activities begun under the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) Project funded by the German Government and implemented by SPREP between 2015 and 2020. This is important as one of the PEBACC lessons learned is that EbA interventions should ideally occur over a longer time period than conventional projects - preferably 5-10 years. Building on the initial PEBACC investments, PACRES is continuing to support EbA work in the Barana Nature and Heritage Park, the Honiara Botanical Garden and the Mataniko and Tagabe River catchments, as well as commencing urban greening around Port Vila and the Honiara CBD.

In May 2021, SPREP and USP PACRES teams in Port Vila organised a three-day tree-planting workshop in collaboration with the Departments of Climate Change and Forests. The workshop aimed to enhance the understanding and capacity of change agents from provincial and municipal offices and communities in tree planting and nurturing. A total of 24 participants (14 women, 10 men) were trained and planted 500 mahogany seedlings in Erangorango, the upper Tagabe River watershed and Zone 3 of the Matnakara Protection Zone of the Port Vila Water Source.

In Samoa the focus is on water security and EbA activities in Savaii while in Timor-Leste the focus is on water security and conducting integrated vulnerability assessments.

Monaco has provided co-financing for an additional marine and coastal component for PACRES to scale up adaptation options which is currently being scoped.



Building professional resilience networks

In work led by SPC PACRES is scaling up professional resilience capacity to support Pacific ACP countries. Building on activities under the earlier EU-PACTVET Project, PACRES is supporting the Pacific Regional Federation of Resilience Professionals, revising technical and vocational education and training (TVET) resilience qualifications 1-4 and developing resilience qualifications for levels 5 and 6.



Building private sector resilience to climate change and natural disasters



PACRES is helping the private sector to strengthen its engagement with government and other stakeholders to increase private sector awareness of climate finance in order to build resilient operations and investments. This work is being implemented jointly with national private sector organisations and the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO) and aims to enhance the private sector's access to climate finance and facilitate private sector partnership arrangements.

Key activities include private sector workshops on climate finance in the three Pacific sub-regions, regional peer to peer learning, development of knowledge products and national private sector mapping for climate change and resilience activities.

Strengthening climate change and disaster resilience networks



At the regional level PACRES is strengthening climate change and disaster resilience network through its support for the PRP.

In early 2023 PACRES will convene an Intra-ACP Lessons Learned Meeting that will bring together practitioners from the Pacific, the Caribbean and elsewhere to share lessons on what has and what hasn't worked in implementing climate change and disaster resilience activities in small island developing states, including lessons from PACRES.

In Papua New Guinea PACRES will support two workshops to strengthen existing climate change and disaster resilience networks and identify opportunities for future funding.

USP is strengthening networks at the community and sub-national levels and promoting communication between local governments and communities for improved implementation of local development plans on climate change and disaster risk management.



Supporting Pacific UNFCCC negotiators

Through PACRES, SPREP and USP are supporting our Pacific UNFCCC negotiators. SPREP's PRP/FRDP Coordinator supported Pacific negotiators at COP25 in Madrid and SPREP hosted the inaugural Post-COP analysis workshop in June 2020.

USP has provided training and supported attendance of a number of young negotiators at COP25 and will continue to support young negotiators at COP26 in November 2021.

Targeted support for SUPA countries

In the 10 SUPA countries where PACRES is not scaling up adaptation pilots, it is providing targeted support to review and develop climate change and disaster resilience strategies and policies, mainstream climate change and disaster resilience across national strategies and policies and maintain national climate change portals. To date this has included development of Nauru's national climate change policy, finalisation of Tuvalu's national climate change policy and support for climate change portals in Tonga and Tuvalu. Planning is well advanced to support activities in other countries.

Strengthening the Pacific's research capacity

PACRES is strengthening the Pacific's research capacity through 5 USP scholarships – one Ph.D. and four Masters in Climate Change degrees and developing on-line postgraduate courses in climate action.

