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The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Twenty Fifth SPREP Meeting of Officials

Majuro, Marshall Islands
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Information Paper 3: Adaptation Programmes Progress Report - PACC & PACC+ and Abaiang Kiribati Projects

Purpose of Paper

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide members with an update on the progress of the work of SPREP and participating Members in relation to the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project and the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Plus (PACC+) and the Abaiang, Kiribati adaptation support projects.
2. The paper then is divided into 2 parts: Part 1 – PACC and PACC + and Part 2 is Abaiang adaptation support.

Part 1 – Background

3. The objectives of both projects are to increase resilience and reduce vulnerabilities of the Pacific communities to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change. It does this by implementing three interlinked strategies - mainstreaming, demonstration of on the ground of prioritised adaptation measures, and capacity building. The three focal area of PACC are integrated coastal management, integrated water management and food security and food production.
4. PACC is a four-year regional project (Feb 2009- Dec 2014) funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the PACC+ (July 2012 - Dec 2014) funded by the Government of Australia. Both PACC and PACC + are executed by UNDP (Multi Country Office Samoa) and implemented by SPREP. It started implementation in February 2009 with a total budget of 13.13 million USD from GEF, followed by additional 7.8 million USD from the Government of Australia for replication and up-scaling of activities. Since inception in 2009, the PACC Project has delivered 78% of total project funding. This is \$16.4m USD as of 31 June 2014.

Component 1: Mainstreaming

5. Since the last SPREP meeting, the PACC launched the *Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific*, a comprehensive and practical guide to incorporating climate risks into development planning and practice in the region. The Guide has since been applied in the development of the *Pacific Gender & Climate Change Toolkit* that was also launched by the PACC and its key development partners - at the 12th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women, Cook Islands September November 2013.

6. All 13 of the 14 Pacific Island Countries met their targets of integrating climate risks and resilience in their national and sector plans. An average of 2 policy changes that aim to enhancing vulnerability-reduction benefits have been effected **at the national level** per country. Collectively, **24** national policies, legal instruments (bills, acts), policy frameworks, institutional establishment strategies have been developed. **At the sectoral level**, approximately **17** sector-focused strategies, frameworks and sector-based regulations, and sector-based institutions have been developed, debated and evolved as a result of the PACC project. At the community level - an average of **31** community development plans, guidelines, by-laws in regulating and controlling natural resource use have been developed with active participation of men and women of grass-roots communities, through the 14 PICTS.

Component 2: Demonstration measures

7. Since the last SPREP meeting, the coastal countries Cook Islands, Samoa and FSM have now all, but completed planned activities. Vanuatu is set to complete its demonstration activity by December 2014. For the food security and food production sector countries - Fiji and Solomon Islands have completed their demonstrations with monitoring now ongoing. PNG and Palau have just picked up their implementation after a few bottle necks in terms of project management and are now implementing their activities with the aim for completion by end of this year. All the water resource management sector countries - Tuvalu, Tonga, Tokelau, Marshall Islands, Niue and Nauru have completed their activities. Tuvalu, Tonga, Marshall Islands and Nauru are now moving into replication activities.

8. The project recently launched the 4th and 5th instalments of the Vital Series documentary at the SIDS Meeting in Apia, September 2014. This is the PACC Cook Islands '*Vital Harbor*' and Samoa's '*Vital Coasts*' documentary. A high-level panel including members of the Mangaia Island community, scientists, engineers responded to audience feedback of the documentary and work of the PACC. The project will be launching 4 more documentaries by November 2014. These include PACC Tokelau, PACC-water, PACC-food security; and PACC-coasts for the three focus sectors of the project.

9. The project launched 2 knowledge management products. These are peer-reviewed publications of the PACC work in 2 series: the PACC Technical Report Series, and the PACC Experiences Series. Publications are now available online at the PACC web page www.sprep.org/pacc/publications. A minimum of 2 success stories are provided monthly online via the CC Matters newsletters. These series followed the publication of the PACC Booklet that targeted high-level decision and policy makers. This was specially produced for the Pacific Islands Leaders Forum, Majuro, 2013.

Overall Result

10. To date: the PACC and PACC+ project has and is impacting more than 54,000 beneficiaries (men, women, boys and girls) from 80 villages in the 14 project member countries. More than 150 government institutions are and continue to directly engage in climate change adaptation processes through the PACC project national teams to date.

Project Closure - December 2014

11. The project completed its 5th and last Multipartite Review (MPR) meeting alongside its Project Board meeting - that endorsed decisions of the MPR and to move the project to closure by December 2014. Following closure, the project is to share with all stakeholders its lessons and practices for replication, upscaling and learning beyond 2014.

Part 2 – Abaiang

Background

12. The Government of Kiribati selected the island of Abaiang, in August 2012 as the pilot site for the for adaptation support funded by USAID with a total of USD\$2 m where 1m was for Choiseul, Solomon Islands. One of the criteria for selecting Abaiang is due to its vulnerability to climate variability and extreme events such as drought. Subsequently, the secretariat along with its partners have implemented a series of activities or on-the-ground investments that would strengthen the water security of villages in Abaiang. Achievements included the following:

Progress

13. ***Strategic Partnerships for the 'Whole of Island' approach (Wol).*** The Government of Kiribati had requested a new regional climate change initiative to support local communities in the outer islands to adapt effectively and efficiently to the adverse impacts of climate change and variability. As a direct response, the SPREP-USAID project adopted the Wol approach as the 'platform' for engaging local communities. This presented the opportunity for development partners and regional organisation such as SPC, GIZ, UNDP, and USP to work together towards building capacity of villagers and local government officials in Abaiang to better manage their response to climate change and variability and thus strengthening the overall resilience of Abaiang.

14. ***Community Participation:*** Abaiang's community of 18 villages were included in a Participatory Planning Workshop in November 2013. Approximately 168 local residents were in attendance with representatives from villages, schools, health centres, council and the island development committee who together form the critical capacity in Abaiang's response to climate change and variability. The workshop was locally driven and facilitated by local government ministries from the main island of Tarawa. Along with the project team's support (SPREP, SPC, USP, GIZ), local government staff lead the training components that focused on the verification of vulnerability assessments including moderating key discussions that resulted in the establishment of island development council and a revision of the Abaiang Island Council Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan which will guide the project's implementation. Key documents from these workshops were duly endorsed and supported by the Abaiang Island Council.

15. ***Identification of Adaptation Measures for Abaiang.*** In consultation with all 18 local communities and the Abaiang Island Council, five villages were selected for installation of *tamana* pumps and rainwater tanks for a total of 391 households. The selection criteria were designed and approved by the project team, the Ministry of Public Works and Utility (MPWU) and the Abaiang Island Council. The criteria were based on multiple water assessments carried out by SPREP and MPWU staff. Furthermore, the project has contributed to the completion of the upgrade of the Abaiang Island Weather Station in-order to enhance forecasting. A number of technical training has been delivered already and in-country support is available through the recently recruited National Project Coordinator.

16. ***Public Awareness and Education.*** Communication materials have been produce to raise the awareness of communities on better management and conservation of water, safe installation of water pumps and tanks, the need for strengthening coordination and partnership through the whole of island approach and supporting local solution to adaptation to climate change and variability. A video documentary to showcase some of these activities is currently being developed for public awareness and for educational purposes.

Recommendations

17. The Meeting is invited to:

- **Note** the achievements and impending ending of both PACC and PACC +;
- **Note** positive results and impacts of the project to countries and communities are supported to ensure enhanced capacity of countries to adapt are sustained;
- Participating countries are encouraged to actively participate in the activities of the project to ensure requirements are met for closure of the project. Important are certification of expenditure of project funds at end of December 2014, audit support for project audit planned for March-April 2015, and capturing of lessons and practices.
- **Note** the progress of the Abaianga adaptation
- Donors of these adaptations initiatives such as GEF, Government of Australia and USAID are gratefully acknowledged.
- UNDP as implementing agency for PACC and PACC + is also gratefully acknowledged.