



Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Highlights-I

July 2008

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PACC Participating Countries



Cook Islands



Fiji



Federated States of Micronesia



Marshall Islands



Nauru



Niue



Palau



Papua New Guinea



Samoa



Solomon Islands



Tonga



Tuvalu



Vanuatu



Background

A project facilitating implementation measures designed to help Pacific communities mitigate the affects of climate change has been requested by leaders and environmental protagonists in the Pacific region since 2003* .

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have played an important role in facilitating a dialogue on this global issue and, in March 2005, formally introduced the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) Project concept to Pacific Island Countries (PICs) at a workshop held in Suva, Fiji. The PACC Project concept was unanimously endorsed by PIC representatives.

Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the PACC Project aims to enhance the capacity of the participating countries to adapt to climate change, including variability, in selected key development sectors.

Although the PACC Project is regional in scope, it is best described as an umbrella mechanism for nationally driven and implemented adaptation initiatives.

The regional component of PACC include oversight of the project to ensure that the PACC objective is met, that technical backstopping as requested by countries is provided, and that a platform for exchange of lessons learned and best practices between the countries and the wider global community is set.



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* Pacific Forum Communiques of 2003-2007; Pacific Regional Environment Programme decisions 2003-2006 and Reports of the 15th, 16th and 17th SPREP Meeting.



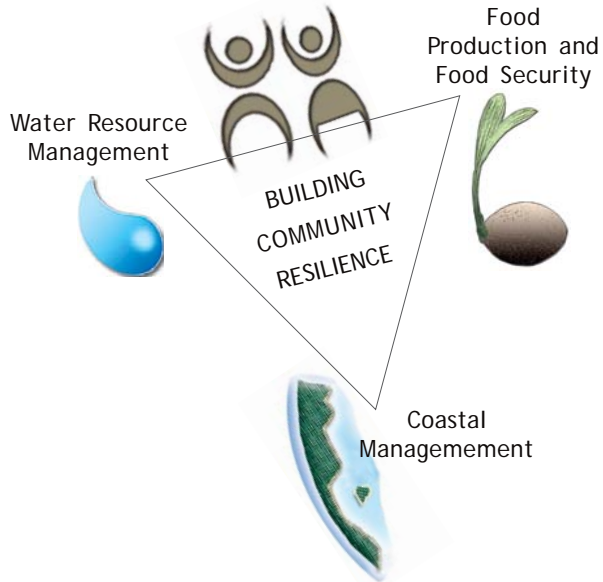
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Objective

To enhance the capacity of participating countries to adapt to climate change, including variability, in selected key development sectors.

This objective is based on national consultations with experts on climate change and development practitioners in the eleven participating Pacific Island Countries.

Three key PACC development areas build resilience to climate change in Pacific communities:



Outcomes

1 Enhanced adaptive capacity in key development sectors.

Food production & food security



Fiji
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Solomon Islands

Coastal management



Cook Islands
Federated States of Micronesia
Samoa
Vanuatu

Water resource management



Marshall Islands
Nauru
Niue
Tonga
Tuvalu

2 Adaptation to climate change priorities integrated in National Policies and Programmes in key development sectors.

3 Regional Cooperation promoted between participating countries to share lessons learned and promote innovation in mainstreaming adaptation to climate change.



Climate change impacts on food production and food security is of major concern to PICs.



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Innovative Approach

1 The PACC Project will be the first GEF project in the Pacific islands region drawing on the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) focusing specifically on adaptation implementation in thirteen countries simultaneously. It is based on country-driven priorities as articulated in national communications to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the National Adaptation Programme for Action (NAPA) for Least Developed Countries, as well as in the regionally and nationally endorsed Pacific Islands Framework on Climate Change (2006-2015).

2 GEF will play a catalytic role in leveraging national level investments towards meeting the additional costs of adaptation to climate change. All countries have already committed the necessary co-financing towards this project.

3 The PACC Project represents an important opportunity for the GEF to take the lead on piloting approaches to adaptation and lessons from this initiative have the potential to be widely disseminated for replication.



At 1-2m above sea level, Tuvalu faces a particular threat from rising sea levels.

4 The PACC Project builds on lessons learnt from previous GEF projects in the Pacific.

The regional component, for example, will be streamlined to place more responsibility for the execution of the PACC on country personnel. Targeted capacity building and technical support initiatives will be implemented for key local stakeholders who will play a pivotal role in the success of the project.



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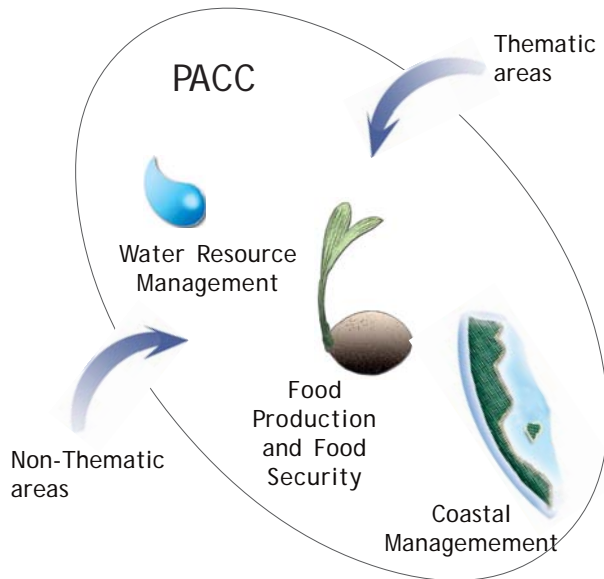


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Partnership Framework

The PACC project is part of an extensive network of climate change and DRR/DRM programmes and activities that are currently being implemented in the Pacific region. It links the needs of Pacific Island countries as set out in the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC) particularly Principle One; "Implementing Adaptation Measures."

PACC activities, by their design, build on existing programmes and activities in the participating countries. Thus, the project contributes to sustainability by engaging all relevant stakeholders in the design, planning and implementation of the adaptation activities. The stakeholders will be engaged, as appropriate, to carry out the various tasks/activities planned under the project.



Assessment Criteria

In order to facilitate the selection of the priority area for PACC intervention, the following criteria were used by stakeholders during national consultations:

- 1 Vulnerability to climate change assessments.
- 2 Alignment with existing and planned national development programmes.
- 3 Availability of baseline assessments and the identification of additional activities ready for implementation.
- 4 Ability of the country to co-finance and implement climate change adaptation at the national level.



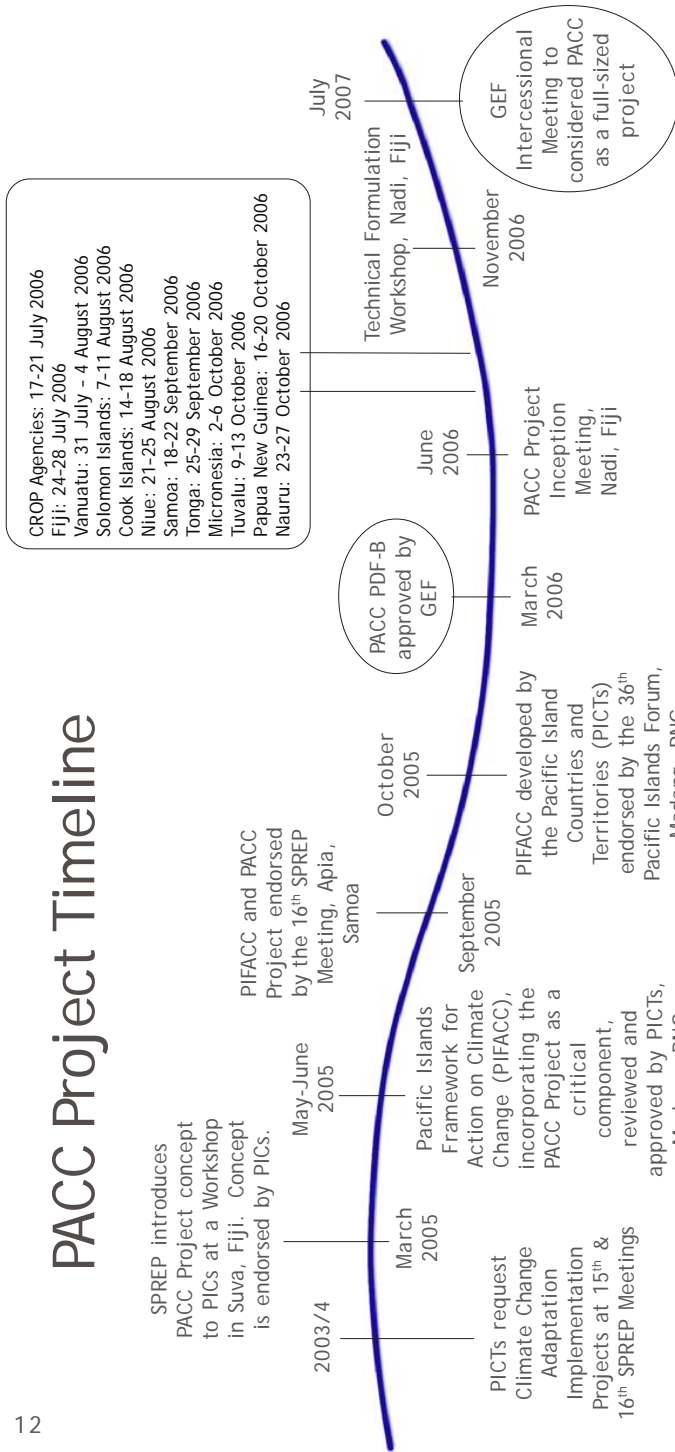
Drought in Papua New Guinea, 2006



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PACC Project Timeline



Current Status of PACC: The PACC project has moved beyond the GEF review process and it is now posted for GEF Council Members comments. According to communication from the GEF CEO, the Council Members will be given four weeks to comment and if by 14th of October no comments are received, then the CEO will complete the GEF Secretariat's assessment with a view to endorse the proposed PACC project document.



For well over a decade, Pacific Island Countries have highlighted the potentially dangerous consequences of climate change on their fragile environments and economies, as a result of global warming. The adverse effects of climate change and sea-level rise present significant risks to the sustainable development of small island developing states, while the long-term effects may threaten the very existence of some small island countries.

The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) Project aims to enhance the capacity of participating countries to adapt to climate change, including variability, in selected key development sectors:



Food production and food security



Water resource management



Coastal management.

Building resilience to climate change in Pacific communities

