



2nd Executive Board Meeting

2 – 4 September 2020

Agenda Item 11.2.3: Outcomes of the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) project

Purpose of Paper

1. To update Members on the outcomes of the **Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC)** project. The project focused on strengthening and protecting natural ecosystem services to enhance resilience to climate change.

Background

2. The €4.95 million project was funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) implemented by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).
3. With an original timeframe of June 2014 to July 2019, the project requested and secured a one-year no-cost extension bringing the end date to 31 July 2020.
4. The project was implemented in partnership with the Governments of Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands.
5. Beneficiaries of grants/contracts for implementation were established with:
 - Fiji: Cakaudrove Provincial Office; Ministry of Forests; WWF Pacific; Conservation International; Pacific Community Land Resource Division.
 - Vanuatu: Department of Forestry; Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.
 - Solomon Islands: Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology; Luru Land Conference of Tribal Communities.
6. A number of institutional stakeholders actively participated in the project which also included learning exchanges with the SPC RESCCUE project and the French territories.

Summary of PEBACC outcomes:

7. Host country agreements were established with the participating countries and SPREP offices and project staff were established in-country. Having dedicated in-country project staff has enabled the development of strong working relationships with government counterparts leading to greater levels of participation, support and uptake of the EbA concept. The host country agreements have also provided a basis for SPREP long term presence in these countries.

8. The project trialed an approach for identifying and prioritising EbA options based on a systematic analysis of ecosystems and their services in the context of climate change: ecosystem and socio-economic resilience analysis and mapping (ESRAM).
9. ESRAMs, which involved active participation from a broad range of stakeholders, were completed at national and sub-national levels. Sub-national levels included the project sites of Taveuni and Macuata Province in Fiji; Port Vila and Tanna in Vanuatu; Honiara and Wagina island in Solomon Islands.
10. The Solomon Islands ESRAM work was presented with the 2018 Sustainability Award for Internationally Funded Projects by the Australian and New Zealand Institute of Sustainable Management.
11. With partners the project implemented 10 EbA demonstration projects:
 - Fiji**
 - Taveuni reforestation and agroforestry support programme
 - Review and update of the Macuata Natural Resource Management Strategy
 - Sustainable land and forest management in the Dreketi River catchment
 - Vanuatu**
 - Restoration and reforestation of the riparian zone of the lower Tagabe River, Port Vila
 - Building climate resilience in urban agro-ecological systems through more efficient and sustainable use of natural resources, Port Vila
 - Establishment of a marine community conservation area (CCA) in Port Resolution, Tanna island
 - Solomon Islands**
 - Establishment of a Community Nature and Heritage Park with the Barana community located in, and to protect, a key Honiara water catchment
 - Support for the upgrade of the Honiara Botanical Garden
 - Addressing the drivers of ecosystem degradation in the lower Mataniko River, Honiara
 - Building local capacity for improved ground water management, Wagina Island
12. PEBACC has successfully served as a 'catalyst' for EbA in host countries and some of the demonstration projects have attracted additional support from government and donors and continue to grow and expand the range of activities. The success of the project has resulted in €4 million being provided by the AFD-EU Kiwa Initiative to implement PEBACC Phase 2.
13. The project supported a number of EbA communications activities and campaigns, including the Wakatu Taveuni campaign, the plastics ban in Vanuatu and a water conservation awareness campaign in Wagina. Technical and educational synthesis reports were developed for the Port Vila, Honiara and Taveuni ESRAMs. Quarterly newsletters were disseminated amongst stakeholders and a project video was produced.

14. Throughout the project, staff contributed to policy and planning development processes in host countries, thereby raising awareness and understanding of the EbA concept and facilitating its mainstreaming. These include:

Fiji

- National Climate Change Policy 2018-2030: *Objective 3.2: To increase ecosystem protection, natural resources redundancy, and environmental resilience through nature-based solutions.*
- Climate Change National Action Plan (NAP)
- National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2018 – 2030
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- Macuata Province Natural Resource Management Strategy

Vanuatu

- National Policy on Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction: *Effective natural resource management can minimize the threat of climate change to ecosystems whilst enhancing livelihoods resilience.... Embedding action and planning within an ecosystem, strengthening all interrelated parts and components (social, biological, economic).*
- National Sustainable Development Plan
- Vanuatu National Oceans Policy
- National Environment Policy and Implementation Plan 2016 - 2030
- Vanuatu National Fisheries Sector Policy 2016 – 2031
- Environmental Impact Assessment regulations
- National Environment Policy and Implementation Plan 2016 to 2030

Solomon Islands

- Solomon Island National Ocean Policy 2018
- Revision of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016
- National Waste Management and Pollution Control Strategy 2017
- Honiara Resilience and Climate Adaptation Plan
- Choiseul Province Medium Term Development Plan 2017

15. Project information and lessons learnt were shared with the community of practice at various regional and international events. A number of academic papers have resulted from the project. Case-studies have been used in regional training programmes such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat's Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) programme of support to the region for the development of Climate Change National Adaptation plans.

Recommendation

16. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:

1. **Note** the outcomes of the PEBACC project in promoting ecosystem-based adaptation in Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands, and the region;
2. **Note** the success of the project in securing an additional €4 million to implement a second 4-year phase;
3. **Encourage** participating government ministries and departments to continue their support for the demonstration projects and seek to expand and apply the knowledge gained on EbA to new areas; and
4. **Encourage** all Pacific island country governments to adopt ecosystem-based adaptation as an effective approach to building climate resilience in the region.