



Report of the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) Project to the
17th Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit
14 – 15 March 2012; Agana – Guam

Background

The Pacific Forum Leaders and environmental protagonists in the Pacific region requested a project facilitating implementation of climate change adaptation measures designed to urgently help Pacific communities adapt to the effects of climate change. The decisions to this request is found in the Pacific Forum Communiqués of 2003-2007; Pacific Regional Environment Programme decisions 2003-2006 and Reports of the 15th, 16th and 17th Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Meeting. This has led to the development of the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) Project.

This project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), executed by UNDP and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

The PACC Project aims to enhance the adaptive capacity of human and biophysical systems through measures designed to reduce the vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change on key priority development sectors of government (coastal, food production and food security, and water sectors).

The three main building blocks or outcomes of the project – mainstreaming, demonstration and communications – are implemented at the community and country levels while supporting the systemic and institutional capacity to address adaptation across the Pacific islands region.

Since 2009, the Micronesian member countries of the PACC project including – Federated States of Micronesia (FSM-Kosrae), Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), and Palau – have carried out and achieved significant outputs of the project with benefits to the people and communities.

The PACC Committee presented at its first MCES meeting that was held in Pohnpei in July 2011. The PACC hosted a side event to present on its objectives, achievements and challenges within the three PACC Micronesian jurisdictions. The Chief Executives of this 15th MCES meeting noted PACC's presentation and agreed to:

1. Support the PACC project funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF) and executed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP);
2. Note the need to mainstream climate change risks in key development sectors of each jurisdiction; and
3. Enhance capacity and resilience of key development sectors in Micronesia and the region to the impacts of climate change.

The PACC Committee would like to report the progress of the PACC project in each of the three jurisdictions to date, since its first reporting to the MCES as follows:

Key Achievements of the PACC project in Micronesia July – December 2011

Federated States of Micronesia – Kosrae State (Priority Sector: Coastal Zone Management)

- Installed and effected climate monitoring and information systems necessary to support and underpin long-term and robust adaptation planning for development and infrastructure on Kosrae. These have included the supply and installation of rainfall, tide, sunshine/solar radiation and sea-level gauging equipments with monitoring capabilities;
- Provided systems to improve access and sharing of climate and related data between agencies in Kosrae (e.g., KIRMA, Public Works) and the National Meteorological Service in Pohnpei;
- Endorsed the Adaptation to Climate Change Communications Plan and Strategy for Kosrae under the PACC project. Implementation of activities under this Plan has commenced. These include knowledge management products and awareness raising campaigns at community levels and schools; and
- Incorporating Climate Change information into school curriculums facilitated by the Kosrae Department of Education, in collaboration with the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL) and SPREP.

Republic of Marshall Islands (Priority Sector: Water Resource Management)

- Established a national climate change policy framework to address climate change issues in the jurisdiction;
 - Developed in collaboration with local partners a Joint National Action Plan (JNAP) to integrate and address climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction;
 - Mainstreamed climate change risks into water and sanitation policy and planning and drafted the jurisdiction's Water and Sanitation Policy with a view to endorse the policy in 2012;
 - Carried out technical assessments of evaporation rates of the jurisdiction's airport water reservoir, against current climate observation and future climate projections; and
 - Endorsed the Adaptation to Climate Change Communications Plan and Strategy for Marshall Islands under the PACC project. Implementation of activities under this Plan encouraged working with stakeholders such as the CMI Land Grant extension agents and the ADB-RETA climate change and water festival planning committees.
- Republic of Palau (Priority Sector: Food security and food production)
- Provided resources to complete field data collection of the Office of the Palau Automated Land and Resource Information System (PALARIS) for a national GIS Farm Survey for agriculture and aquaculture variety with the aim to identify suitable farming areas across Palau;
 - Piloted and ongoing monitoring of a number of aquaculture farms and farming techniques to increase alternative choices for food production including farming of 4,500 giant clams

Ribkungal (*Tridacna squamosa*) and Kism (*Tridacna derasa*); 5,000 rabbit-fish fingerlings, 15 brood stock milk-fish, and 400 mangrove crabs with an expected survival rate of 85%;

- Piloted and ongoing monitoring of taro and sweet potato varieties and traditional and alternative taro patches or 'bluus' testing different dyke and ridge designs crucial for water retention capability and measuring water retention quality (salt water) against sea levels and tide conditions.

Republic of Palau (Priority Sector: Food security and food production)

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- Piloted and ongoing monitoring of a number of aquaculture farms and farming techniques to increase alternative choices for food production including farming of 4,500 giant clams Ribkungal (*Tridacna squamosa*) and Kism (*Tridacna derasa*); 5,000 rabbit-fish fingerlings, 15 brood stock milk-fish, and 400 mangrove crabs with an expected survival rate of 85%;
- Piloted and ongoing monitoring of taro and sweet potato varieties and traditional and alternative taro patches or 'bluus' testing different dyke and ridge designs crucial for water retention capability and measuring water retention quality (salt water) against sea levels and tide conditions.

Recommendations

The PACC Committee seeks to reaffirm commitment of the Chief Executives to:

- Support and commend the PACC project funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF), executed by United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP);
- Note the need to mainstream climate change risks in key development sectors of each jurisdiction; and
- Enhance capacity and resilience of key development sectors in Micronesia and the region to the impacts of climate change
- The PACC Committee strongly seeks support and agreement from the Chief Executives to;
- Support the PACC as the implementation framework for climate change adaptation in Micronesia linked with and providing parallel support to conservation measures of the Micronesian Challenge promoting ecosystem based approach (EbA) in climate change adaptation; and
- Establish a Micronesian PACC network which would be included in the SPREP Climate Change Port