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Newsletter



PACRES Project convened Fourth Steering Committee Meeting in Fiji

Through the project, the EU has recognised Pacific countries taking on additional responsibilities and implementing activities effectively and efficiently which has enhanced national ownership of the activities, and ownership lies at the heart of sustainability.

The EU remains a steadfast ally of the Pacific through supporting and collaborating with Pacific Island countries in tackling existential challenges.

Ms Tagaloa Cooper, Director for SPREP's Climate Change Resilience Project commended the EU and delivery partners for the joint collaboration to navigate the challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure implementation of the project continued.

"There has been significant progress across all PACRES Key Result Areas, which is a testament to the combined efforts of our countries, regional agencies, and partners. Thank you for your efforts and the flexibility afforded all aspects of the project due to challenges from COVID-19." She further said, "I commend you all for your perseverance to ensure that your activities under PACRES were successfully implemented across 14 ACP countries of the Pacific region and Timor Leste. Well done."

Link to story:

<https://www.sprep.org/news/pacres-project-convenes-fourth-steering-committee-meeting-in-fiji>

Meet the team:



Mr. Rahul Prasad
USP PACRES
Project Team Leader



Mesake Semainaliwa
USP PACRES
Monitoring and
Evaluation Officer



Leonardo de Sousa Rosa
PACRES Project Officer
Timor Leste



PACRES Project helps Solomon Islands restore Honiara Botanic Gardens to former glory

The Botanic Gardens in Honiara is an important space for Solomon Islands. Spread over an estimated 19 hectares, the gardens showcase a range of local and exotic plant species and provide a sanctuary for native fauna, including a vast array of reptiles, birds and insects.

Due to limited resources, insufficient management and competing land uses, however, the gardens located two kilometers from the city center in Rove, have deteriorated over the years.

“This is a very important space for our community for many reasons and it is why we are very pleased that there is now a plan to try and restore it,” he said. “The Honiara Botanical Gardens Management and Business Plan 2020-2030 identifies specific activities to be included in a Honiara Botanical Gardens Landscape Master Plan. A 1965 design provided a very good base network of paths, open spaces, and some buildings with which to work. However, the Landscape Architecture Master Plan proposes some great ideas, integrating what already exists on site and combining them with new elements to expand and develop the gardens to reflect the aspirations and its principles.”

Link to story:

<https://www.sprep.org/news/pacres-project-helps-solomon-islands-restore-honiara-botanic-gardens-to-former-glory>

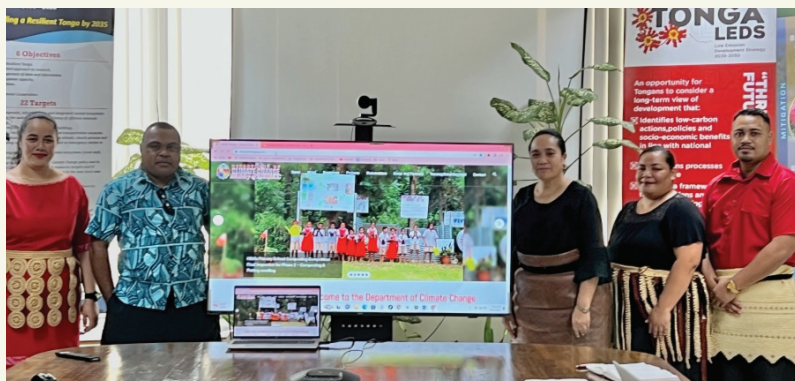
Building the Kingdom of Tonga’s Resilience to adapt to climate change impacts



The Kingdom of Tonga, located along the Pacific tectonic plate called the Ring of Fire, is particularly vulnerable to the devastating impact of climate change. Ranked the third most at-risk country for natural hazards and sea level rise in the 2021 World Risk Report, this high risk was clearly exposed when a volcanic eruption in January 2022 triggered up to 15m tsunami waves which destroyed entire villages.

But the people of the Kingdom of Tonga are resilient and with the help of the €12 million EU funded Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES), working with the Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communication (MEIDECC), they are building the capacity of Tongans to adapt to climate change and continue to build their resilience.

A key milestone was the creation, uploading and the updating of Tonga’s climate change portal, hosted by MEIDECC. The portal was established under Tonga’s Joint National Action Plan (JNAP) 1 for information, knowledge management and sharing.



Link to story:

<https://www.sprep.org/news/building-the-kingdom-of-tongas-resilience-to-adapt-to-climate-change-impacts>

Working together to build resilience across our Pacific



PACRES aims to enhance regional and national adaptation and mitigation solutions to address climate change challenges faced by 15 Pacific ACP countries.

These countries include the 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.

Funded by the European Union Intra-ACP GCCA+, the Project Steering Committee Meeting, and Lessons Learned in Climate Change and Disaster Resilience will assess PACRES' progress from 2021 to 2023 and discuss necessary adjustments to the scheduled activities for the following year.

Additionally, the meeting provided an opportunity for PACRES country representatives and partners to contribute their input on progress, proposed adjustments, and lessons learned during the duration of the project.



Link to story:

<https://www.sprep.org/news/working-together-to-build-resilience-across-our-pacific>



PACRES Scales Up Adaptation in the Pacific using ecosystem based solutions

We live in a time where the Blue Pacific grapples with ways to respond to the mounting threats created by the changing climate. There is an urgent need for innovative and cost-effective solutions. Our Pacific people have turned to nature-based interventions to address many of these threats – working with nature, rather than against it.

In the Solomon Islands, PACRES has supported expansion of the Barana Nature and Heritage Park through community consultations, ground truthing and surveys. The park spans approximately 5,000 hectares of forest areas and covers part of the upper catchment of Mataniko river. As a key water catchment area for Honiara, the project prioritised riverbank stabilisation and riparian zone stabilisation along the river, complemented by tree planting activities. Chris Teva, PACRES Project Officer for Solomon Islands, shares these highlights and said, "the project uses

Ecosystem-based Adaptation approaches to protect the water catchment while protecting the ecosystem, thus reducing vulnerability and building resilience to climate change".

Similar sentiments were echoed by other countries like Vanuatu, where the Tagabe river is a critical ecosystem that supplies fresh water to a population of over 50,000 in Port Vila.

Link to story:

<https://www.sprep.org/news/pacres-up-scales-adaptation-in-the-pacific-using-ecosystem-based-solutions> <https://www.pacificclimatechange.net/news/focus-needs-he-community-pacres-steering-committee-meeting-urged>

PACRES countries reflect on their challenges and lessons learned



Implementing countries for the European Union Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) project have spotlighted their challenges and recommendations for best practice at the PACRES Lessons Learned workshop, following the project's fourth and final Steering Committee Meeting in Nadi, Fiji.

Fostering partnerships between governments, development partners and communities was highlighted as a key point. Complementing these partnerships is the need for communities to be empowered to take ownership of their natural resources and related activities.

Tavua village in Fiji has exemplified leadership in building a resilient community through self-reliance by developing Communities of Practice (CoP). Livelihood interventions and capacity building activities in disaster resilience have been delivered through the CoP.

A key activity supported by PACRES is the introduction of the 72-hour kit, a preparation tool for communities to utilise in the hours after a disaster.

Link to story:

<https://www.sprep.org/news/pacres-countries-reflect-on-their-challenges-and-lessons-learned>

Curtain falls on the final PACRES Steering Committee and lessons learned meeting



Following a week of comprehensive and informative sessions and dialogue, partner countries and delivery partners brought the fourth and final Steering Committee meeting and Lessons Learned workshop for the European Union (EU) Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) project to a close.

Representatives from the meeting's host country, Fiji, banded together to farewell their colleagues with a chorus of "Isa Lei". The final session brought the curtains down on a week where implementing countries and partners reviewed the project's progress and the work plan for the remaining months before project closure.

The members of the Steering Committee Meeting also shared their lessons learned and best practices for the way forward in climate change adaptation and resilience building. The harmonising of climate change dialogue and fostering partnerships between government sectors, civil society, non-governmental organisations, development partners and communities was highlighted as a key finding during the workshop.

Link to story:

<https://www.sprep.org/news/curtain-falls-on-the-final-pacres-steering-committee-and-lessons-learned-meeting>

Inaugural Peer to Peer Learning for the Pacific Private Sector in Climate Finance and Resilience



To strengthen strategic engagement and dialogue at the national and regional levels to better understand the role and contribution of the private sector with respect to climate change and disaster resilience. Through the P2P Learning arrangement, it is anticipated that this will contribute to a more practical and effective learning approach that offers relevant exposure for participants to practical skills and knowledge about driving climate solutions and investments.

The first Pacific Peer to Peer (P2P) Learning Programme for the private sector in climate finance and resilience was conducted from 29 May to 01 June in Fiji, in collaboration between the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), the Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation (FCEF) and the Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council (FBDRRC). Other partners included the UN Connecting Business initiative (CBI) and members of FCEF that were generously accepted to host representatives of the private sector from countries in the Pacific region. The Programme was made possible with funding support from the European Union funded Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES).

Link to story:

<https://www.forumsec.org/2023/06/02/remarks-dsg-dr-manoni-at-the-pacific-peer-to-peer-learning-program-for-private-sector/>

Palau hosts the second Micronesia Sub-regional Private Sector dialogue on accessing climate finance



The second Micronesia Sub-regional Private Sector Climate Finance Workshop built on the success and feedback from the first virtual workshop in November 2020 which the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) co-hosted with the Government of Nauru. PIFS received full support from the Government of Palau through the Office of Climate Change, Palau Chamber of Commerce (PCC) to jointly host the face-to-face workshop in Koror. The workshop was attended by representatives from the GCF NDA Office and the private sector from the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau and the Republic of Marshall Islands.

Lessons from previous sub-regional workshops had clearly established the value in bringing together multilateral and regional agencies, governments, and private sector representatives. It is a platform for better understanding on how to access climate financing and encourages discussions on ways this process can be improved.

Link to story:

<https://www.forumsec.org/2023/06/27/remarks-dsg-manoni-at-the-micronesia-private-sector-workshop-on-climate-finance/>

Third Melanesia Sub-regional Dialogue on improving access to climate change finance for the private sector



The Government of Solomon Islands and the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) hosted the third Melanesia Sub-regional Private Sector Climate Finance Workshop in Honiara from 29-31 August.

This workshop was aimed at enhancing private sector contribution in building resilience through improving access to climate finance and strengthened public-private partnership. Representatives from the Government and the private sector in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu including regional and development partners and climate financing institutions will converge at the Heritage Park Hotel. During the meeting, regional participants discussed opportunities for improved collaboration between the public and private sectors on climate finance coordination and access to resources to address the impacts of climate change on businesses.

The workshop was officiated by the Assistant Secretary for the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change Disaster Management and Meteorology, Mr Chanel Iroi.

Link to story:

<https://www.forumsec.org/2023/09/01/remarks-dsg-esala-nayasi-at-the-melanesia-sub-regional-private-sector-workshop-on-climate-finance/>

Enhancing Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development in Timor-Leste: A Joint Mission for Positive Change



Like many other Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Timor-Leste faced significant challenges resulting from the consequences of climate change. The increasing global temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, and more frequent and intense extreme weather events had far-reaching implications for various aspects of the country's environment and society. Timor-Leste's vulnerability to natural hazards such as droughts, floods, landslides, and soil erosion was particularly high.

To tackle these challenges, Timor-Leste actively pursued measures to enhance climate resilience and mitigate the effects of climate change. The government focused on sustainable land and water management, promoted renewable energy sources, and implemented strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. International cooperation and support were vital in assisting Timor-Leste in adapting to the impacts of climate change and establishing a sustainable future for its people.

Link to story:

<https://www.usp.ac.fj/paces-sd/projects/intra-acp-gcca-pacres/pacres-articles-and-stories/enhancing-climate-resilience-and-sustainable-development-in-timor-leste-a-joint-mission-for-positive-change/>

Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Tool vital for the Pacific Region



The purpose of the training was to enhance knowledge and skills related to EbA, which is a comprehensive approach to adaptation planning aimed at utilizing healthy ecosystems and biodiversity to strengthen social and ecological resilience. Mr. Semi Qamese, Project Manager of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), facilitated the training, which focused on several key objectives related to climate change and disaster risk management. “We were pleased to offer this user-friendly tool specifically designed for planners in our Pacific countries. The goal was to provide guidance on the types of EbA interventions that could be considered based on different local circumstances and needs,” Mr. Qamese stated.



Link to story:

<https://www.usp.ac.fj/pace-sd/projects/intra-acp-gcca-pacres/pacres-articles-and-stories/ecosystem-based-adaptation-eba-tool-vital-for-the-pacific-region/>

Resilience Capacity and Collaboration Critical to the success of the USP PACRES Programme in Vanuatu



After Tropical Cyclone Judy and Tropical Cyclone Kevin, the families and communities in Vanuatu faced immense challenges in rebuilding their lives. The depth of the impact and the resilience displayed by the people was truly remarkable, especially considering the obstacles they encountered, such as limited access to communication and essential resources. Vanuatu, a country severely affected by the climate crisis, suffered severe consequences. In March 2023, the country was devastated by two consecutive Category 4 tropical cyclones within a five-day period. The estimated cost of these cyclones to Vanuatu was more than half of the country’s annual gross domestic product.

In early June, the University of the South Pacific (USP) conducted a site visit to Vanuatu as part of the European Union-funded Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) program to check on project activities and the well-being of our Research Community Officer (RCO).

Link to story:

<https://www.usp.ac.fj/pace-sd/projects/intra-acp-gcca-pacres/pacres-articles-and-stories/resilience-capacity-and-collaboration-critical-to-the-success-of-the-usp-pacres-programme-in-vanuatu/>

From Small-Town Dreams to a Master's Degree in Climate Change



Born in a small town in Vanualevu, Roslyn Dass Nand always had big dreams that matched her unwavering determination. From an early age, she realised that education would be her ticket to success and a way to make her mark in society. Her journey is a testament to the power of persistence, dedication, and the pursuit of one's passions.

Upon completing her high school education at Labasa College, Roslyn enrolled at The University of the South Pacific (USP) to pursue an undergraduate degree in Science. Her commitment and hard work paid off as she completed her undergraduate studies. With her degree in hand, she embarked on a career as a secondary school teacher, sharing her knowledge and inspiring young minds.

Under the USP PACRES programme, Roslyn was one of the four students from the Pacific who was awarded a scholarship in Masters of Climate Change. Her studies focus on Integrating Gender equity in small-scale fisheries to improve food security resilience in Fiji thanks to the USP PACRES project. They will be the project's second graduate scholarship student this year.

The USP PACRES Scholarship component of the programme offers students a unique chance to participate in climate change research at PaCE-SD. Through the PACRES project, this initiative granted five scholarships as part of its commitment to advancing climate change education. These scholarships include support for one female PhD student and four Master's students, consisting of two female and two male students, all specialising in Climate Change.

Roslyn's ultimate inspiration is her children, who motivate her daily to become the best version of herself. In her leisure time, she enjoys quality moments with her family, engages in sports like badminton and netball, and pursues her hobbies of reading, gardening, and photography.

Link to story:

<https://www.usp.ac.fj/pace-sd/projects/intra-acp-gcca-pacres/pacres-articles-and-stories/roslyn-nands-success-story-from-small-town-dreams-to-a-masters-degree-in-climate-change/>

USP PACRES meets with the Solomon Islands Climate Action Network (SICAN) and other local key stakeholders



Last year, the University of the South Pacific (USP) held a two-day Grant Proposal Writing Training at the All Saints Mothers Union Hall in Honiara, Solomon Islands, as part of the European Union-funded Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) programme.

The training was designed to help members of the Solomon Islands Climate Change Action Network (SICAN) and other local key stakeholders involved in climate change and disaster resilience work on how to obtain funding to assist in building capacity and resilience within their communities.

The USP PACRES team met with SICAN representatives and other local key stakeholders on May 3rd to discuss the impact of the Grant Proposal Writing Training. Eight participants, three men, and five women shared their perspectives on how the training helped them secure funds for their respective communities.

Link to story:

<https://www.usp.ac.fj/pace-sd/2023/05/05/usp-pacres-meets-with-the-solomon-islands-climate-action-network-sican-and-other-local-key-stakeholders/>

Fostering Resilience Education for the Pacific in the Solomon Islands



In the picturesque archipelago of Solomon Islands, nestled in the heart of the Pacific Ocean, climate change is not just a buzzword; it's a stark reality that communities grapple with daily. However, amidst the challenges, there's a glimmer of hope. From September 4th to 6th, 2023, 90 households in Honiara received 72-hour resilient kits, marking a significant milestone for the work carried out by the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) project. This initiative is driven by the profound principle of self-reliance, aimed at creating communities that can weather any storm.

In this transformative training session held in Honiara, leaders from the Reilouga and Lauvalley communities embarked on a journey to understand the essence of self-reliance. The focus was on disaster preparedness and its pivotal role in ensuring communities stand firm and are self-sufficient when faced with unforeseen disasters and the ever-looming impacts of climate change.

Self-reliance is more than just a concept; it's a way of life that empowers individuals and communities alike. It involves taking proactive steps to prepare for the unexpected, ensuring that essential needs are met, and fostering a resilient spirit in the face of adversity.

Link to story:

<https://gem.spc.int/updates/blog/blog/2023/09/self-reliance-a-way-forward-for-solomon-islands>

Fostering Resilience Education for the Pacific in Papua New Guinea



The first-ever regionally accredited resilience qualifications available in certificate and diploma levels have created compelling dialogue in the education community after the Pacific Community's (SPC) Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) project conducted orientations on the courses in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the Solomon Islands.

A total of 35 Vocational Education and Training (VET) institutions showed interest in offering the qualifications during the informative sessions on the courses held in PNG. The qualifications consist of levels 2 and 4 Certificates and levels 5 and 6 Diplomas in resilience.

With a pathway on qualifications already embedded in PNG's national qualifications framework, Assistant Secretary for VET curriculum division, Mrs Violet Gerega said the Resilience courses would integrate well into their current qualification system.

"All the levels have been captured in our national qualification framework. The articulation pathway is already established from National Certificate 1 (NC) to national advanced diploma," said Mrs Gerega.

"In the past, vocabularies like dropouts, failures and second-class were used to describe VET students. We don't use these types of vocabulary anymore because the articulation pathway leads up to university so those who have gone through vocational centers can make it up to the university level".



Link to story:

<https://gem.spc.int/updates/blog/blog/2023/07/fostering-resilience-education-for-the-pacific>