

TOKELAU

PACC Country Brief

Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change



Integrated coastal community defense and erosion control, and a safe and abundant water supply in view of climate change risks

The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project is supporting the integration of climate change risks into policy frameworks and the implementation of community-based adaptation measures in 14 countries throughout the Pacific. These actions are intended to increase resilience in three key development sectors: water resource management, coastal zone management, and food production and food security.

In Tokelau, a nation made up of three tropical coral atolls in the South Pacific Ocean, the PACC project is working to address coastal zone management and introduce climate-resilience to the water supply.



Island in Tokelau.
Photo: Andrea Egan

Issues

On 29 September 2011, in response to severe water shortages, the Government of Tokelau declared a state of emergency. Following this severe drought, water resource management was flagged as the area of greatest concern to communities in Tokelau. The tropical marine environment of Tokelau is home to approximately 1600 people. The islands' infrastructure is highly vulnerable to natural disasters such as tidal surges, typhoons, drought and tropical cyclones. The acceleration of sea level rise, prolonged drought periods, and other serious impacts of climate change combine to threaten the coexistence of the entire 12 sq km of land area and its native inhabitants.

Actions

PACC Tokelau, with support from AusAID, is working to improve water access and quality to support an adequate supply of clean

water and healthier living. The Tokelau PACC project will work to provide safe and sufficient water for all Tokelauans in response to the risks and impacts of climate change.

Policy mainstreaming:

The first of the PACC outcomes is devoted to mainstreaming. The PACC approach to mainstreaming has a dual purpose: 1) to strengthen the ability of institutional frameworks, policies and plans to take climate change risks into consideration and 2) to improve the capacity of key national government and community decision-makers to integrate adaptation measures in key decisions.

For policy mainstreaming and enhancing institutional capacities to date, consultations for PACC+ have been carried out and approved & endorsed by three villages under the PACC Tokelau project. Additionally, three focal points from Public Service in the three target villages and a National coordinator (who is currently undergoing a 2 month preparatory training) have been appointed to work closely to implement effectively the PACC Tokelau project.

Community-based adaptation:

The second PACC outcome is to design and demonstrate innovative decision systems, approaches, technologies and practical measures to improve climate-resilience. Actions aimed at improving water resources in the context of climate change include improving water harvesting and guttering of households, expanding rainwater harvesting infrastructure and reducing leakage of reticulated systems and water storage facilities. By standardising household tank allocation, additional water tanks will be installed for older houses with insufficient storage.

- Rainwater harvesting systems will be implemented throughout each atoll of Tokelau;
- Leakage of water storage facilities will be reduced in each of the three atoll islands; and
- Water quality will be improved through the installation of first flush diverters.

To date, materials have arrived for priorities 1 and 2: installation of spouting and downpipes, rainwater connections; 3 household tank

Country Summary

Country: Tokelau

Thematic Sector:
Coastal Zone Management

Project Funding Source:
GEF-Special Climate Change Fund, AusAID

National budget allocation:
GEF-SCCF: \$\$499,775;

Co-financing:
SPC & NZ Ministry of Civil Defense: \$192,000

Programme Period:
2011-2014

Target area:
Atafu, Nukunonu and Fakaofu

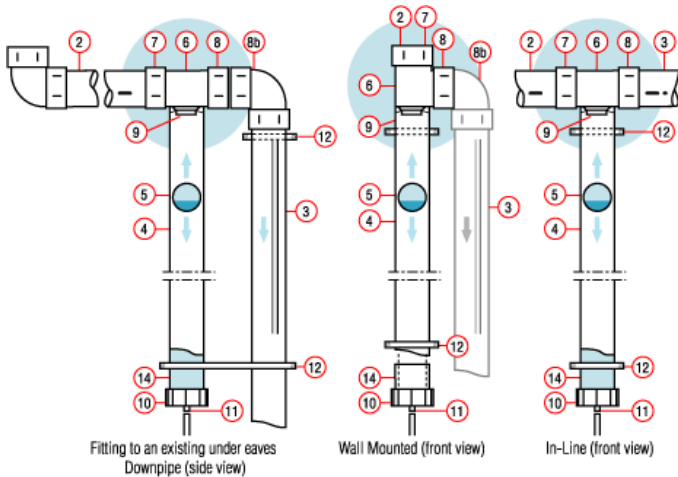
National Implementing Agent:
Government of Tokelau

Regional Implementing Partner: SPREP

Implementing Agency:
UNDP



First Flush Diverter



Kiara Enterprise contractors carrying out tank repair work for the Taupulega Office foundational water tank in Nukunonu.

When it rains, water slowly builds up in the roof gutter system before it exits through the downpipe. The first flush of water from the roof can contain bacteria and sediment: undesirable elements to have in a water storage system. With a First Flush Diverter instead of flowing to the water tank, these pollutants are diverted with the initial flow of water into the chamber of the water diverter and away from the water storage tanks. This directly improves the water quality and public health.

water proofing and 4 Installation of first flush diverters for existing rainwater catchment systems.

Impacts

The Tokelau PACC project will enhance the adaptive capacity of human and biophysical systems through measures designed to reduce the adverse effects of climate change on key development sectors of government. Through the project's various actions, solid infrastructures will be put in place to help communities better defend themselves against water supply risks. By the project's end, meetings and workshops will facilitate the development of a national climate change policy framework. In addition, at least 70% of national and community level stakeholders who participate in training activities will possess new skills and knowledge in climate vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning. This learning will improve communities' resilience to the effects of climate change in the future.

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