

Newsletter

Welcome to the PACRES Newsletter



In This Issue:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Introduction to the team | 2 |
| Working through COVID 19 | 2 |
| Pacific Resilience Partnership | 2 |
| Masamasa-Falelima National Park | 3 |
| Private Sector Support | 4 |
| Coastal Clean Up | 5 |
| What Resilience Means | 6 |



About PACRES

PACRES Newsletter

Welcome to the first PACRES Quarterly!

Funded by the European Union, the Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) aims to deliver better regional and national adaptation and mitigation responses to climate change challenges faced by the 15 Pacific ACP countries. The €12 million project is being delivered jointly by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Pacific Community (SPC) and The University of the South Pacific (USP).

PACRES is providing regional support to Pacific ACP countries by:

- strengthening regional coordination in climate change and disaster resilience through the multi-stakeholder Pacific Resilience Partnership for the effective implementation of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) - an integrated approach to address climate change and disaster risk management
- assisting national governments in United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations
- scaling up Pacific professional resilience capacity, including through enhanced technical and vocational education and training qualifications
- increasing the access to and reach of climate change and disaster resilience information
- building the Pacific's resilience in climate change by supporting postgraduate studies through the USP component; and

- strengthening strategic engagement and dialogue with the private sector to deepen regional and public sector understanding of the role and contribution of the private sector with respect to climate change and disaster resilience.

In Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu PACRES is scaling up adaptation pilots including ecosystem-based solutions. These are the five Pacific ACP countries not receiving support under GCCA+ Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA).

In other participating Pacific ACP countries, PACRES will support:

- review or development of climate change and disaster resilience strategies and policies;
- strengthening of monitoring and evaluation processes;
- further mainstreaming of climate change and disaster resilience;
- national climate change information portals; or
- a combination of the above.



European Union Ambassador Sujiro Seam, Professor Pal Ahluwalia Vice-Chancellor and President (USP) together with the five PACRES scholarship students.

Meet the PACRES team

We will be introducing the full PACRES team in future newsletters, including our USP research and community officers and PACRES project officers stationed in partner countries. The PACRES leads for each participating agency are:



Dr. Martin Sharp,
PACRES Project
Manager based at
SPREP



Ms. Teea Tira,
PIFS PACRES
Coordinator



Ms. Melanie Farman,
SPC PACRES
Coordinator; and



Dr. Prerna Chand,
USP PACRES
Team Leader.

Working through COVID-19

While travel restrictions caused by COVID-19 have had an impact on PACRES delivery, we have continued activities where practicable using virtual means. One example was the Post-COP Analysis Workshop held over three days in late June 2020

<https://www.sprep.org/news/pacific-takes-stock-of-cop25-in-lead-up-to-next-global-climate-change-conference>

Pacific Resilience Partnership

PACRES is supporting the PRP through governance arrangements that include the Task Force with representation from government, civil society, private sector, regional organisations, academia and partners. The governance arrangements also include the biennial Pacific Resilience Meeting (PRM), the Support Unit comprised of PIFS, SPREP and SPC and Technical Working Groups (TWGs). The TWGs provide an avenue for countries and partners to come together to progress priority issues identified through the Taskforce or PRM and to date have been prompted and facilitated by different agencies with a common focus and interest on specific issues. So far five TWG have been established on Human Mobility, Localisation, Disaster Risk Finance, Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) and Risk Governance.

This newsletter looks at the Risk Governance TWG, co-chaired by Loti Yates, Director of Solomon Islands National Disaster Management Office and Vasiti Soko, Director of the Fiji National Disaster Management Office. The Risk Governance TWG understands that well-functioning disaster and climate risk management arrangements must be grounded in a strong legislative basis, at national and local level to guide all aspects of risk management. Its objective is to strengthen risk governance for resilient development in the Pacific through strengthening regional collaboration, promoting best practices, providing guidance for national policy and legislation development processes and facilitating

exchange of lessons learnt. It has an initial focus on the development and implementation of climate smart disaster risk management legal frameworks. Membership has reflected this focus and draws from the National Disaster Management Offices (NDMO) and legal offices across the Pacific, as well as regional agencies.

At their recent meeting on 25 May, 2020 Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu were represented through their NDMO and Attorney General's office with dynamic discussions on country experiences in relation to the impacts of COVID-19, Tropical Cyclones Tino and Harold. It was a practical sharing of experiences, challenges and lessons learnt by our national officials on the frontline of their country's response measures.

Next steps will include to start collecting legislation or orders promulgated during COVID-19, and collecting resources to help in planning regional collaboration between the NDMO offices. This will inform research to identify areas of improvement in existing policy and legal frameworks linking health responses with climate change and disaster risk responses. The Risk Governance TWG demonstrates the value of collaborative approaches that bring together the different expertise and knowledge to inform what can be done better in the context of resilience building.

Legislating & policy making
for climate smart DRM in
the Pacific.



Samoa conducts baseline survey of Masamasa-Falelima National Park in Savaii Island

The very first baseline survey and assessment of the Masamasa-Falelima National Park has indicated evidence of the presence of the Manumea, Samoa's endemic rare tooth-billed pigeon. The survey took place in June this year as part of the Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) activity to prepare a Management Plan for the Park.

The survey assesses current status of flora and fauna to identify the best management strategies and actions are for the Park. It was conducted by the Government of Samoa's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MNRE) with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), "There were a number of interesting key findings, including evidence of the presence of the Manumea, which is believed to be on the verge of extinction. We are excited to publish the findings of the survey and begin working with SPREP to draft the Park Management Plan," said Moafanua Tolusina Pouli, Assistant Chief Executive Officer of MNRE Forestry Division.

"The survey of the Masamasa-Falelima National Park took us two weeks to complete, as we covered an extensive land area - a total of 5,648 acres. This is the first time to carry out a baseline assessment of the area which is crucial for the development of the Management Plan."

A total area of 2400m² of forest and 55 bird count sites were included in the survey, which covered 24 forest plots as well as the south coast end between Fagafau and Falelima villages to the Park edge on Northwest Savaii - Asau and Vaisala villages.

Seventy per cent of the park is covered almost entirely by Forest Plantations, which were replanted following the logging operations of the 1960s and



1970s in west Savaii. It is estimated that a large portion of the initial forest plantation was also destroyed by Cyclones Ofa in 1990 and then Val in 1991.

In 2007, following the declaration of the National Park the replanting of native tree species such as malili, tava, and asi toa was a priority, to naturalise the area with Samoan forest trees.

The 30 per cent of the Park that was not replanted is covered by unlogged forest, now dominated by siapatua (*Elaeocarpus angustifolius*), the naturalised invasive alien forest tree common along the west of Savaii. This is a result of the damage caused by the 1990 Cyclones.

Despite the Park area being covered by planted exotic trees, a very high diversity of native flora and fauna was noted during the survey, especially in higher altitude areas.

The survey found evidence of the presence of Samoa's critically endangered endemic manumea bird, along with several other threatened bird species of Samoa such as the Samoan white eye, island thrush, many coloured fruit dove, and Samoan whistler.

"SPREP is pleased to partner with the Government of Samoa for an activity that has so many positive national findings.. We're grateful for the funding support from the European Union which

has helped enable the very first step to a management plan for the Masamasa-Falelima National Park of Samoa," said Ms Tagaloa Cooper-Halo, Director of Climate Change Resilience of SPREP. "Pacific resilience is crucial for our Pacific communities and the stronger our environment is, the better we are able to bounce back from the impacts of climate change."

A positive outcome of the survey was the absence of the invasive myna birds, an invasive species that is rampant in Upolu island.

The Masamasa-Falelima National Park extends from the north to the south of Asau – Falelima forest areas and provides a very important environmental function for the conservation of biodiversity, and as a natural carbon sink.

A major consideration for the Management Plan is the looming dilemma on the use of the exotic forest plantations as an economic asset, against its value for building climate resilience as well as the impact on the native biodiversity.

The survey was conducted from 15 – 26 June, 2020 with Mr. Toeolesulusulu Cedric Schuster the PACRES consultant, members of the Forestry Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment from both Upolu and Savaii, and Ms Emma Arasi-Sua, PACRES Knowledge Management Officer.



Private sector support to accessing climate finance and other investment funds

PACRES has recently supported a national mapping project in Solomon Islands to identify increased opportunities by the private sector to access climate change and other investment funds. The project was a joint collaboration by the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry with the Ministries of Finance and Treasury and Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, supported by PIFS.

According to the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) Chairperson, Mr. Jay Bartlett, the private sector mapping has made existing public-private partnerships stronger with new guidance and interest by SICCI members in accessing climate change resources for mitigation and adaptation activities as resilient business operators.

A similar mapping project is planned for Tonga.

This private sector mapping builds on earlier support in Cook Islands in 2019 where PIFS, in collaboration with the Government of Cook Islands through the Climate Change Office and the Chamber of Commerce supported the national mapping of climate change and disaster related activities as well as a national and subregional workshop for the private sector. The overall objective was to advance the dialogue on resilience building through improved access to climate finance and strengthening public private partnership. The Cook Islands Private Sector Climate Change Issues Mapping Workshop was held from 1 - 2 October 2019 followed by the Polynesia Sub-regional Workshop on 3 - 4 October 2019.

“ The overall objective was to advance the dialogue on resilience building through improved access to climate finance and strengthening public private partnership. ”

USP PACRES scholars organised a beachfront clean up event at USP's Marine Campus.



Coastal Clean Up

To commemorate the World Environment Day and the World Oceans Day, the USP PACRES scholars organised a beachfront clean up event at USP's Marine Campus on 6 June 2020. The event was organised amidst the COVID-19 crisis; as such, appropriate social distancing regulations were followed during the cleanup.

In an effort to promote networking among youth, climate change veterans and donors, invites were extended to high school students, USP's climate change students, Professor Pal Ahluwalia, Vice Chancellor and President of USP, Ambassador Sujiro Seam, Head of the Delegation of the European Union in the Pacific, Professor Elisabeth Holland, Climate Change Professor at USP, Dr. Morgan Wairiu, Acting Director, Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (PaCE-SD), PACRES project partners, SPREP and PIFS.

"Our sustainability ambitions stretch

across campus operations, teaching and research and PaCESD champions this ambition and it is very encouraging to know that the climate change postgraduate students are leading with the "walk the talk" responsibility!

"Let us use this event to encourage and empower one another to protect our natural surroundings and be environment and oceans guardians and champions," he said.

Professor Ahluwalia thanked the EU and PaCE-SD for supporting the PACRES project and the students for providing a great opportunity to celebrate both World Environment Day and the International Oceans Day with a coastal cleanup.

The event helped to raise awareness and create an opportunity to reflect on the responsibility in the important task of preserving and enhancing our environment.

“ Let us use this event to encourage and empower one another to protect our natural surroundings and be environment and oceans guardians and champions. ”



Our community is educated and prepared to face disaster. But being resilient is about having trust and confidence in the support you can get from relatives and neighbours, as well as being ready to offer your help to others. The solidarity from the community is the most reliable source for recovering from a disaster.

Name: Ms Vula Tokasa
Age: 55
Country: Fiji
Title: Leader of Tamavua Village Methodist Church Women Fellowship.



Disaster and Climate Resilience to me is about strengthening communities capacities on existing traditional practices/ skills in identifying risks and solutions to peoples safety and ability to respond”

Name: Jofiliti Veikoso
Age: 27
Country: Fiji
Title: Child Inclusion Officer (Child Centered Disaster Risk Reduction Project)”



I am from Malekula, and live in Port-Vila. While Pam hit, nobody thought a cyclone could be so bad. Nobody believes it would be the monster it was. So for me, resilience can only be reached when information is accessible and accurate and communities listen to guidance and prepare properly.

Name: Loveinia Philemon
Age: 40
Country: Vanuatu
Title: Housewife and mother of two girls.



Disaster and Climate Resilient is being prepared and able to withstand disaster and effects of Climate Change.

Name: Faith A. Siba
Age: 25
Country: Federated States of Micronesia
Title: Project Manager, FSM Ridge-to-Reef: International Waters Project



Resilience is the ability to recover from the consequences of a disaster and climate change

Name: Marika Alice Kulbach Moala
Age: 25
Country: Tonga
Title: Disaster Management Officer for Tonga Red Cross Society



Climate disaster resilience means the ability to recover from any hazards that affects development.

Name: Ratu Jope Naucabalavu Sukanaveita
Age: 30
Country: Fiji
Title: HR Assistant - Vinod Patel Company Limited