

PROJECT BRIEF

No 01 | 2020

Institutional Strengthening in Pacific Island Countries to Adapt to Climate Change (ISACC)

Project Highlights 2016—2017



Fiji



FSM



Kiribati



Palau



Samoa



Solomon Islands



Tuvalu



Vanuatu



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique



PACIFIC ISLANDS
FORUM SECRETARIAT



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

SUMMARY

Institutional Strengthening in Pacific Island Countries to Adapt to Climate Change (ISACC) is a regional climate finance project that is implemented in **eight Pacific Island countries (PICs): Fiji; Federated States of Micronesia (FSM); Kiribati; Palau; Samoa; Solomon Islands; Tuvalu; and Vanuatu.** The project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and is implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) in partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

The primary objective of this project is to **strengthen the national institutional capacity of PICs to plan, coordinate and respond effectively to the adverse impacts of climate change and disaster risks.**

This objective will be achieved through three **Key Result Areas (KRAs)**, as outlined below.



KRA 1

Strengthened Institutional Frameworks and National Capacity

Integrated institutional frameworks and national capacity will be strengthened to support multi-sectoral approaches to climate change and disaster risks.



KRA 2

Enhanced Access to Finance

Access to new climate change finance will be enhanced through improved capacity, systems and tools at the national level.



KRA 3

Strengthened Regional Cooperation and Coordination

Regional cooperation and coordination will be strengthened through augmented national capacity delivered through shared learning to support PICs to address climate and disaster risks.

Project Snapshots

401 
participants

across 8 PICs attended climate finance-related consultations and workshops



3 PICs

commenced national climate change and disaster risk finance assessments:

Palau; Solomon Islands; and Vanuatu

5 ISACC

project staff

successfully recruited



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



A regional institutional mapping exercise was undertaken to identify human capacity and policy gaps in each of the eight PICs involved in the project. The findings of this exercise helped inform targeted activities for each of the project countries.



The Regional institutional mapping assessment report



In response to a demand for capacity building to better understand climate change finance, several workshops and consultations were conducted over the course of the first eighteen months of the project. By the end of 2017, a total of 401 officials across seven PICs had participated in at least one climate finance workshop or consultation. These opportunities encouraged lesson-sharing on experiences relating to access to, and management of, climate change finance, resulting in increased knowledge and understanding on current challenges relevant to all PICs.



Climate change and disaster risk finance assessments and national validation workshops were conducted in Solomon Islands, Palau and Vanuatu, utilising the Pacific Climate Change Finance Assessment Framework (PCCFAF).

In collaboration with PIFS, a scoping report and concept note were devised as part of this project to support development and piloting of a climate finance tracking tool, tailored to PICs, the first of its kind for the region.



Key partnerships were initiated with traditional and non-traditional partners to support implementation of the project activities. These partnerships help foster greater regional coordination and cooperation through shared learning between PICs and development partners, while also presenting opportunities for PICs to pool technical and financial resources.

Regional Climate Finance, Coordination and Knowledge Exchange Platforms 2017

Climate Finance Partners' Coordination Group Meeting, 29 March, 2017, Suva, Fiji

- This regional coordination mechanism was initiated by the ISACC project, in partnership with PIFS and the German development agency, GIZ, to update all partners on the development and progress of regional projects and programmes related to climate finance.

South-South Learning Workshop on National Climate Funds, 30–31 March, 2017, Nadi, Fiji

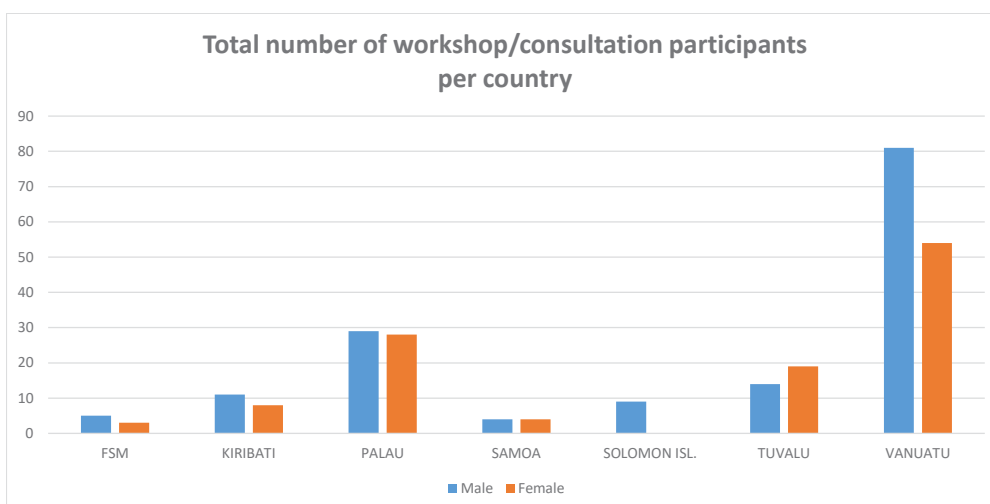
- Experiences, successes and challenges encountered by PIC governments whilst establishing National Climate Change Funds were shared alongside recommendations for the way forward. Lessons from Fiji, Tonga and Tuvalu were highlighted.
- Processes and procedures for accessing global climate funds were discussed.

Regional Climate Change Finance Meetings 10–14 July, 2017, Nadi, Fiji

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- Processes and procedures for accessing global climate funds were discussed.

Joint Platform for Disaster Risk Management and Pacific Climate Change Round Table, 2–5 October, 2017, Suva, Fiji

- This regional platform was held to discuss and commit to measures that would help advance work toward Pacific resilience.
- The ISACC project team participated and provided feedback on recommendations for working groups under the Framework for Resilient Development (FRDP).



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Fiji



The ISACC project supported establishment of Fiji's national Integrated Vulnerability Assessment (IVA) database, in partnership with the Fiji Government Climate Change Unit. The IVA provides a standardised methodology and database structure to undertake national vulnerability assessments, assisting in government decision-making for climate change adaptation initiatives.

Palau



An online platform was developed to facilitate the sharing of national climate change information. Plans for this platform were initiated in partnership with SPREP, through mapping of information assets and development of a business case for the platform. This platform is expected to improve information sharing, accessibility and coordination efforts around climate change significantly at the national level.

"It's good to see that a climate change portal at the national level will be developed as that would help with other agencies to integrate climate change into their work."

Ms. Gwen Sisior, Senior Projects Manager, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism

Samoa



The Government of Samoa hosted its first national climate change finance forum, attended by 78 people, including representatives from: the government; non-governmental organisations (NGOs); civil society organisations (CSOs); private sector; regional organisations; and development partners. The event was jointly organised by the Samoa Ministry of Finance (MoF), SPREP, the SPC ISACC project, PIFS, GIZ and the USAID Climate Ready project.

The aim of the forum was two-fold: to increase awareness on climate change finance; and to share experiences on access to climate change finance.



Participants of the first national climate change finance forum hosted by the Government of Samoa

Solomon Islands



An evaluation was undertaken of the Solomon Islands Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme (CHICCHAP) to inform lessons learned on integrated approaches. Specifically, the evaluation examined how well the CHICCHAP had achieved its intended results, identified the barriers and supports to achieving results, and explored how these lessons may inform future integrated approaches for adaptation or climate change financing activities.

Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme (CHICCHAP)

The CHICCHAP is an example of a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral approach to address climate change at the local level. The programme offers insight into the varied options for accessing climate change finance and the absorptive capacity challenges facing national and provincial governments in accessing and managing large-scale climate change projects and programmes.

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) report provides key recommendations for developing climate change adaptation initiatives based on an integrated programming approach. Lessons learned are useful to the future design of climate change projects as well as successful community engagement during project/programme implementation.

Tuvalu



A national workshop was held to propose the development of a national environmental and social safeguards system, including revised Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) processes. Training was conducted to strengthen the functional, operational and technical capacity of the Department of Environment (DoE) in managing Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) processes and enforcement through a multi-stakeholder approach. A public seminar and forum were also conducted on issues relating to the Tuvalu Survival Fund, Tuvalu Trust Fund, Energy Policy and Tuvalu Development Bank.

Vanuatu



Vanuatu hosted its first climate finance forum. A key outcome of the forum was the development of a multi-partner Climate Finance Roadmap. This roadmap is aimed at increasing access to climate finance, building capacity at all levels of society to adapt to the impacts of climate change, and enhancing coordination between the Government of Vanuatu and other stakeholders, including development partners and the private sector. Launch of the Vanuatu Climate Finance Review and Assessment was a priority of the Vanuatu Climate Finance Roadmap.



Participants of the Vanuatu Climate Finance Review Workshop

LESSONS LEARNED

- Undertaking an initial assessment exercise, such as regional institutional mapping, is important at the beginning of a new project. It facilitates improved understanding of the current context and identification of existing gaps for each of the PICs involved in the project. This activity ensured that the project team could develop work plans that provided targeted support, tailored toward the specific needs of each PIC. Project designs that allow for this sort of flexibility are crucial, especially given that the time frame between project design and development and implementation can be significant.
- There is a recognised need for greater coordination from development partners, especially with regard to work within the climate change and resilience space. Greater coordination between development partners requires time and will only be realised when meaningful partnerships are forged between relevant stakeholders. Nonetheless, effective coordination in the area of climate financing support has ensured reduced duplication of efforts and pooling of resources (financial and technical) at the national level. This helps reduce the burden on countries in a region where financial constraints and capacity limitations are significant challenges.
- Regional and national climate finance forums and workshops involving governments, NGOs and CSOs provide an effective platform for lesson-and-experience sharing on important climate finance issues including the global climate finance landscape and associated proposal/reporting requirements to access global funds. Bringing together multiple stakeholders in one workshop fosters dialogue and enhanced coordination across national actors.
- Access to, and effective management of, climate finance can be enhanced through targeted trainings and workshops. The trainings provided have enabled government officials to better understand the complex architecture and stringent rules surrounding climate and disaster risk finance and project management and have built necessary knowledge and skills to navigate these complexities.
- Online Information Platforms are crucial to keep the wider public informed of ongoing climate finance projects and other development issues. Making information available to the public will raise awareness on climate and disaster risk finance and empower citizens to hold governments accountable. Such platforms also assist in better coordination at the national level as they provide for a centralised system that houses all climate change information, further increasing accessibility by stakeholders and the public.



The project results contribute to advancing discussions on SDG 13

INDICATOR: 13.a.1

Mobilised amount of US dollars per year starting in 2020 accountable toward the \$100 billion commitment

INDICATOR: 13.b.1

Number of least developed countries and small island developing states that are receiving specialised support, and amount of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change related planning and management, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalised communities

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<https://gem.spc.int/projects/isacc> or
<https://www.spc.int/>