

# PROJECT BRIEF

No 03 | 2020

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

### Project Highlights 2019



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



**1<sup>st</sup> Regional Climate Change and Disaster Risk Financing Forum & media training held**

Climate finance tools deployed in **2 PICs**



**43 participants**

in 3 PICs trained in M&E and project management





**115 people in 8 PICs**


attended climate finance workshops/consultations


# PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

With financial uncertainty for the ISACC project in 2018 and 2019, 2019 activities were largely focused at the regional level, with a number of key outcomes achieved.

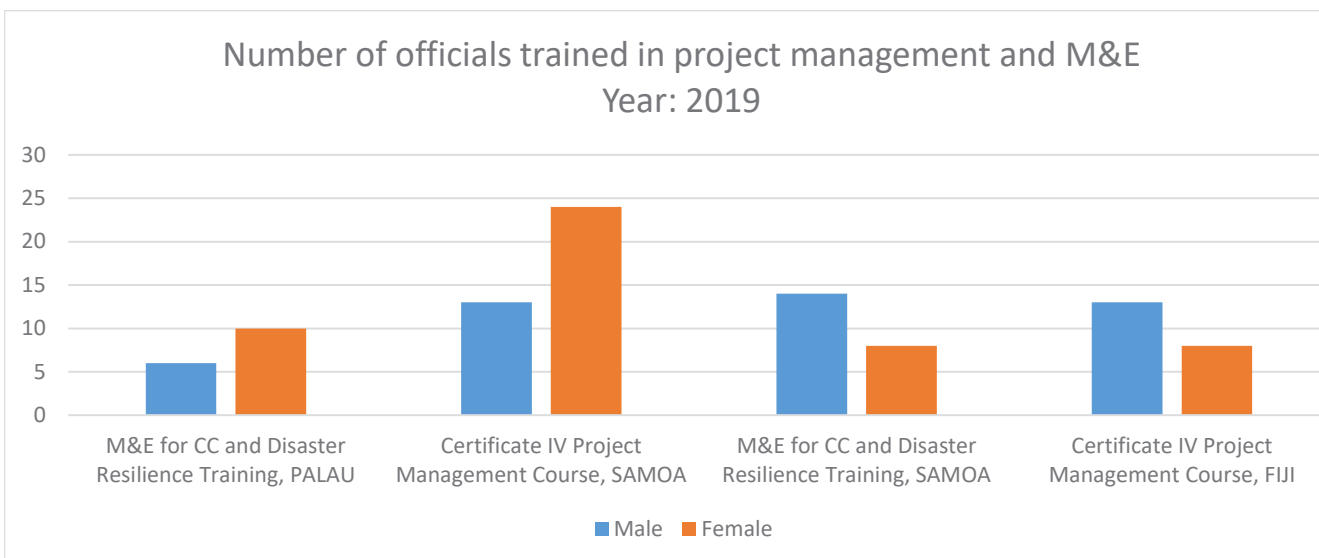
 Trainings were conducted to support specific country needs and increase knowledge and understanding of climate change and disaster risk finance (CCDRF) issues. Training included Monitoring and Evaluation for Climate Change and Disaster Resilience, developed by the ISACC project team in collaboration with SPC’s Geoscience, Energy and Maritime (GEM) Division Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Adviser. Furthermore, Certificate IV in Project Management Practice was delivered by USP’s Pacific Technical and Further Education (USP Pacific TAFE) in Fiji and Samoa with the support of the ISACC project. By the end of 2019, an additional 43 people had been trained across three countries.

 A climate finance tracking tool was deployed in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands, with support from their respective ministries of finance and national information and communications technology (ICT) staff. The tool was developed to be integrated into the national Financial Management Information Systems, with future functionality to also capture domestic budget expenditure on climate change. The tool will be piloted in 2020.

 Together with other partners, support was provided to the Government of Tuvalu resulting in accreditation of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MFED) as a National Implementing Entity (NIE) to the Adaptation Fund. This is a significant milestone for Tuvalu as having NIE status will enable the country to help address climate change challenges by developing concrete adaptation projects through the fund in order to meet national priorities.


 In partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Government of Solomon Islands, the ISACC project supported national consultations and proposal development for a Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Grant, which was approved in December 2019. Through the USD 800,000 support, the Ministry for Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management (MECDM) will aim to strengthen the capacity of engagement of their National Designated Authority with the GCF and to develop a roadmap to progress GCF accreditation of two national entities. Furthermore, technical support was also provided for the development and review of a GCF funding proposal for National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Readiness Support. The proposal was successfully completed and submitted to the Government of Solomon Islands for further action.

 Hosting of the Regional Climate Change and Disaster Risk Finance Forum was a significant achievement in 2019. Around 80 participants representing governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), private sector and development partners from across the region attended the event. Participants shared experiences and lessons learned in the region on key issues relating to CCDRF: direct and indirect CCDRF; Public Financial Management and linkages to CCDRF; CCDRF modalities; Public-Private Partnerships for Access/Management of CCDRF; and existing capacity needs to access and manage CCDRF. The forum was hosted in conjunction with: a Project Steering Committee Meeting for the USAID/SPC ISACC project and Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)/German development agency (GIZ) Climate Finance Readiness in the Pacific (CFRP) project; a Climate Finance Regional Media Masterclass; and a consultation workshop for the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) M&E Framework and Pacific Resilience Standards.





Participants at the Climate Change and Disaster Risk Finance Forum, 26-27 June 2019, Coral Coast, Fiji

 Media representatives from Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Fiji, Tuvalu and Papua New Guinea (PNG) attended the Regional Climate Finance Media Masterclass – the first of its kind with a specific focus on CCDRF. This training was organised to address knowledge gaps and to train media personnel from across the PICs to better report on CCDRF.



Regional Climate Finance Media Masterclass Training Participants


*“I would like to say thank you. This is the first time I have done a climate finance training and usually we are working with the communities so thank you to SPREP, Griffith University, Pacific Environment Journalist network and SPC.” – Kalisito Vaecece Biaukula Fiji*

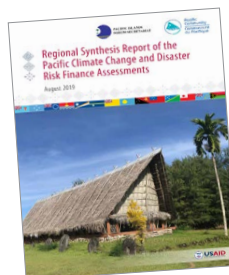
*“Climate finance navigator is a bonus for me, so now I know where to go and the information that is available on all of these platforms. So, I am more than happy to share with my colleagues.” – Florence Jonduo, PNG*

*“For myself, as a new journalist, this is a new area to report from and you’ve gotta start somewhere and this has been really good and look forward to more of this in the future.” – Seneti Popua ‘Aho, Tonga*


*“The afternoon going through the different sessions and finding out there are whole lot of avenues where we can get data and statistics from, especially when reporting in our country – this is one thing that I have learned. Although I’ve been in the media for 20 years, this session has been great in guiding us through the issues in climate finance. Personally, I’ve sent some stories back home for the local radio station.” – Gina Kekea, Solomon Islands*

*“I’ve learned climate financing is not an easy thing for some countries. So, we need a lot of data and better public finance management systems and monitoring and evaluation. And also the technical jargon that’s there so it’s a new thing for me to hear.” – Jared Koli, Solomon Islands*

 The Regional Synthesis Report of the Pacific Climate Change and Disaster Risk Finance Assessments was published in August 2019. This report is an initial synthesis of the key observations and recommendations from the application of the Pacific Climate Change Finance Assessment and Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Reviews, undertaken across 10 PICs. Recommendations from the synthesis report provide useful resources for countries as they navigate their way around the complex landscape and stringent requirements of the global CCDRF architecture.



Cover page of the Regional Synthesis Report of the Pacific Climate Change and Disaster Risk Finance Assessments (August 2019)

 Technical assistance was provided to facilitate implementation of a Needs Assessment Report on the gaps and opportunities for monitoring and evaluating the FRDP. Findings from this assessment revealed that strengthening national resilience M&E systems is a fundamental pre-condition for M&E of the FRDP at the regional level. As such, the development of a M&E Strategy for the FRDP has also been supported and will guide continuation of this regional work.

 As an active partner on climate finance engaged in the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) region, the ISACC project supported development of the MSG Climate Finance Strategy and was represented at the consultation workshop hosted by the MSG Secretariat in partnership with the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The MSG Climate Finance Strategy was launched at the Asia Pacific Climate Week in Bangkok in September 2019



## LESSONS LEARNED

- It is important to conduct a regional synthesis of the completed finance assessment reports to provide a more Pacific-focused analysis of common challenges for Pacific governments in accessing global climate financing and effectively managing these challenges. The review process revealed common regional observations and issues across the seven pillars of the Pacific Climate Change Finance Assessment Framework, including: funding sources; policies and planning; institutional, public financial management and expenditure; human capacity; gender and social inclusion; and development effectiveness.
- The format of the Regional Climate Change and Disaster Risk Financing Forum has received exceptionally positive feedback from participants and resulted in calls by governments and other stakeholders for more issue-focused, rather than project-focused, discussions to be held. Redirecting discourse from projects to issues will foster greater learning and sharing of actual climate change issues and challenges affecting the region and will enable collective approaches to concrete solutions that will lead to more resilient communities. In this regard, the 2019 forum should serve as a good practice example for future projects and partners to adopt.
- The media has a fundamental role to play in disseminating and raising awareness on climate change issues, including CCDRF. Their role is crucial to influence policy debates and public understanding of climate change and other development and environmental issues. Building the capacity of media personnel on climate change issues, particularly issues such as climate change financing, is crucial to ensure accurate and timely dissemination of information on climate change issues affecting the PICs.
- Most, if not all, M&E of climate and disaster investment in PICs have focused on donor-funded projects and programmes. Robust analysis of how resilience investments are reducing vulnerability at aggregate levels (sub-national; sectoral; and/or national) is absent. Regardless, development aid in the region continues to flow with minimal evidence of the effectiveness and impact of investments to sustainable development. This tendency obstructs the incentive to invest in M&E systems and hence constrains government and donor understanding of what works to reduce climate vulnerability and how project-based resilient development could be upscaled. The strengthening of national resilient development M&E systems, including that of the implementation of the FRDP, is therefore crucial to ensure climate resilient decision-making,

prioritisation and resource allocation at sub-national, national and regional levels is informed and managed by lessons from past investments and efforts.

- PICs have made significant progress in the access of climate change finance since the ISACC project commenced in 2016. This is evident in the achievement of accreditation status, as well as the Green Climate Fund readiness grants awarded to several PICs. Projects and programmes that compliment readiness grants, and provide support to national governments, often through technical assistance and capacity support and supplementation, are integral components of this success.



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### 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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### FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

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