

# *Strengthening the Resilience of Our Islands and Our Communities to Climate Change Programme*

*Porokaramu akāmatutu'anga o te iti tangata i te tuatau manakōkore'ia no te tau'i'anga reva*



Office of the Prime Minister



**Country:** Cook Islands

**Project Number/Code:** 00079524

**Project Title:** Cook Islands SCRIC - AF

**Executing Agency:** Office of the Prime Minister

**Period Covered:** January 1<sup>st</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2015

## **Summary of Overall Progress for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter as at January 1<sup>st</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2015**

- Mainstreaming Climate Change – Implementation of the recommendations from the policy review commenced in this quarter.
- CLEWIS project – Portal presented at Donor Partners Meeting.
- CLEWS project – Documentation for procurement of hardware for CLEWS ready for tendering for a supplier.
- Rauti Para Training – The Rauti Para training implemented on Penrhyn and Pukapuka
- SGP Projects – Arrangements with CIRC as National Host Institute for SRIC-CC SGP finalised.
- Scoping and community consultations for Northern Water project – scoping on Pukapuka, Manihiki, Rakahanga and Penrhyn completed.
- SRIC-CC Programme Officer – Dr Teina Rongo joins SRIC-CC programme as Programme Officer.
- SRIC-CC Finance Officer – Ms Annmarie Roi joins SRIC-CC Programme as Finance Officer.
- Visit by UNDP staff Ioane Iosefo to train Ms Roi and Dr Rongo in UNDP Finance systems and assist SRIC-CC Programme in annual audit.

## *Outcome 1: Strengthening and implementing climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction at national level*

### **Output 1.1 – National and sector policies, related instruments, and work programmes enhanced in ways that support CCA and DRM in the Pa Enuā, consistent with Island Development Plans**

- Mainstreaming Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction – Implementation of a recommendation from the national CCA and DRM Policy review and development, commenced in this quarter. The Director of Central Policy & Planning Mr. Petero Okotai, Mr. Daniel Lin (Consultant) of Hawaii, Ms Ana Tiraa (Director of SRIC-CC & Climate Change Cook Islands) and SRIC-CC Programme Manager signed the contracts for this task in March.

The overall objective of this assignment is to Review and strengthen the mainstreaming of Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation and Risk Reduction in National policies. Specific tasks include;

- ✓ Identifying gaps, weaknesses and issues in the national policies framework in sectors related to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
- ✓ Providing guidance and recommendations on how to best address the identified gaps, weaknesses and issues, referencing the recommendations of *Akairo Ltd* from the CC and DRM National Policy development task (Ref: Recommendation 2. A; Akairo, 2013) and
- ✓ Mainstreaming climate change and disaster risk reduction considerations into the policy and planning frameworks.



**Photo:** The team pose for a snap after the signing of contracts between Mr. Lin and Office of the Prime Minister.

### **Output 1.3 – Operational Climate, Early Warning and Information System (CLEWIS/CLEWS)**

#### **Activity 1.3.4 –**

- Climate Early Warning Information System (CLEWIS) project – The CLEWIS Project was presented at the Donor Partners Meeting (DPM) in January. The CLEWIS Project GEO-PORTAL is managed by Emergency Management Cook Islands and can be viewed at <http://www.emci.gov.ck>; Since commencing this task, Manarii has pulled together a team of representatives from key stakeholders to assist in the development of the portal thus ensuring that the end product is suitable to the user. The portal holds a lot of information that can be accessed by internet and used by Disaster Managers around the Cook Islands.



**Photo:** Technical Assistant Mr. Manarii Etches (left) presenting the CLEWIS project at the Donor Partners Meeting in January 2015 – Rarotonga. The meeting was attended by regional and International donor partners to the Cook Islands.

- Climate Early Warning System (CLEWS) project – The tendering process commences. The tendering process for the supply of Automated Weather Systems (AWS) hardware has commenced in this quarter.

### *Outcome 2: Strengthening capacities for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the Pa Enua*

- Rauti Para Training – The Rauti Para training programme was implemented on Penrhyn and Pukapuka Pa Enua in this quarter. Although the training in Climate Change and IT targets the elderly, the whole community show up to share their experiences regarding changes in the weather patterns and what they have ( and still are) seeing on the ground. The Climate Change indicators report and was released in this quarter and can be viewed at; <http://www.undp-alm.org/resources/document/using-local-knowledge-understand-climate-variability-cook-islands-january-2015>
- Through the Rauti Para training, a video was produced entitled; *A lifetime of change*. The video captures indigenous knowledge regarding weather and the impacts experienced in the community. Thanks to Soko Takemoto and Andrea Egan, the video can also be viewed at; <http://www.undp-alm.org/resources/videos/lifetime-of-change>
- Been two very isolated islands (Penrhyn & Pukapuka); a lot of planning went into having the *assessment of community water tanks* (SRIC-CC Northern Water Project – *reported in outcome 3*) prepared and implemented on this visit also. As there are no scheduled flights to Penrhyn and Pukapuka, the team chartered a domestic aircraft (6 seats) to visit Penrhyn for 2 days and Pukapuka for 2 days.



**Photo:** Mama's in Pukapuka enjoy accessing Climate Change Information through the IT training provided through the Rauti Para programme.

### ***Output 2.2 – Enhance capacity of Island Councils – Appoint, train and fund SRIC Focal points***

Focal Points update –

- In this coming quarter, there will be changes in focal points for some of the Pa Enea. Mangaia FP – Pa Epi Mana departed Mangaia and now resides in Australia. Atiu FP – Anna Takaiti departed Atiu and now resides in Australia. Mauke FP – Eimoana Taia departed Mauke and now resides in Australia. Nassau FP Pamanini Tuatai has taken leave from the programme to be in Australia for medical reasons. The SRIC-CC programme has received confirmation that she is well and will return in April.
- The process of recruiting FP's for Mangaia, Atiu and Mauke commenced in quarter 1. The new Focal Points for these 3 Pa Enea will be named in the next quarter.

### ***Outcome 3: Implementing climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures in the Pa Enea.***

#### ***Output 3.1 – Small grants to 11 Pa Enea and their communities***

- In this reporting quarter, several proposals were put together with the help of the National Host Institute (Cook Islands Red Cross Society) for the Small Grants Programme. On the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2015 approximately 10 SRIC-CC proposals will be assessed under the new GEF/ SRIC-CC SGP arrangements. The NHI works closely with the SRIC-CC Focal Points in the Pa Enea and provides “Hands on” training for the respective FP's.

#### ***Output 3.2 – Climate resilient agriculture and fisheries practices***

- The SRIC-CC Programme continued to work with the Women in Business Development Incorporated (WIBDI) in Samoa to progress the Coconut Oil production for the women of Manihiki, Mauke and Atiu Pa Enea. After receiving training in Samoa, the 8 Women group's representatives were tasked with identifying suitable sites in their respective communities to house the Coconut Cold Press operation.

Work on this project will continue in quarter 2. This will include finalising arrangements with the respective groups and their communities and Island Administrations and Island Councils, procurements of resources and construction.

- The Mangaia Growers & Livestock Association Inc (MGLAI) project has received the “Go ahead” from relevant partners in Agriculture. This project will commence implementation in quarter 2. The Programme Manager will visit Mangaia to formalise arrangements before the project is ready for implementation in the community.

### **Northern Water project**

Community water tanks scoping and community consultations for Pukapuka, Nassau, Manihiki, Rakahanga and Penrhyn commenced in quarter 1/ 2015. A chartered flight transported 6 members of the SRIC-CC Programme to these 2 Pa Enea. The Rauti Para training is reported in output 2 of this report. The water tanks/ catchment area structures were assessed in preparation for the completion of the Project Design Document (PDD) that is due on the 30<sup>th</sup> April. It is estimated; this combined delivery of strengthening water capacity (repair/ replace community tanks) on these 5 Pa Enea will cost over 1m. The “Northern Water” co-financing arrangement with the EU GIZ Programme that was reported last quarter is vital for this project.

### ***Output 4***

**Knowledge materials** – the Climate Change indicators report by Dr Teina Rongo and Celine Dyer of Climate Change Cook Islands. This document was launched in this quarter and will be a part of the knowledge management materials co-financed under the SRIC-CC programme. Partners include; Cook Islands Government, Adaptation Fund, UNDP, EU-GCCA, European Union and SPC.

### ***Project Management***

- After the resignation of the SRIC-CC Programme Officer to seek employment opportunities overseas, the vacancy for the position was advertised and filled by Dr Teina Rongo.
- After the resignation of the SRIC-CC Finance Officer to attend University in Auckland, the position was advertised and filled by Ms Annmarie Roi. Ms Roi recently returned home after studying overseas. Both are settling well into their new roles.



**Photo:** Ms Annmarie Roi (Finance Officer) and Dr Teina Rongo (Programme Officer) have now joined the SRIC-CC Programme.

**Visit by loane losefo**

- UNDP representative loane losefo visited the SRIC-CC programme management unit to provide financial management training using UNDP systems with Ms Roi and assist the SRIC-CC Programme in preparation for its annual audit.
- Annual Audit; The SRIC-CC Programme was recently audited and have again (2<sup>nd</sup> year) received an unqualified pass.

***Report prepared by:***

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