

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



ADAPTATION FUND



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 – March 2013

Summary of Overall Progress for 1st quarter 2013

- Atiu, Mangaia, Aitutaki and Mauke communities aware of SRIC CC programme and assistance.
- Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction now a part of the Community Sustainable Development Plans (CSDP) for Atiu, Mangaia, Aitutaki and Mauke.
- Training for 7 Focal Points arranged to take place on Rarotonga in May.
- Drafting of the National Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy task started.
- The Learning Needs assessment task started.
- Applications for assistance under the SRIC CC programme received from Pa Enuā.
- Draft EWIS concept paper drafted
- Part-time Finance Officer confirmed.

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

Output 1.1 - Effective and efficient support at National level

The Learning Needs assessment task started. Planning 4 Sustainable Development (P4SD) was contracted on the 8th March 2013. Progress – inception report (IR) feedback received from SRIC-PAC. IR approved by Programme Director. First draft report due in early Q2.

Output 1.2 – National and sector policies

The National Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy task started. Akairo Ltd was contracted on the 25th February 2013. Progress – inception report (IR) feedback received from SRIC PAC. IR approved by Programme Director. First draft report due in early Q2.



Signing of the contract to review National Policies & draft new CC/DRR National Policy”. Pictured are Mrs. Tina Newport (left) and Mr. Ewan Cameron (standing) of Akairo Ltd with OPM – Chief of staff Mrs. Elizabeth Koteka. **Photo:** CCCI

Output 1.3 – Operational Climate, Early Warning and Information System (EWIS)

Activity 1.3.4 - The Cook Islands Meteorological Services (CIMS) requested to develop this proposal. Progress – CIMS now acquiring costs from overseas suppliers and developing implementation and management plan for this technical proposal.

Activity 1.3.5 – SRIC staff met with Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Marine Resources, Cook Islands Meteorological Services and the National Environment Services to initiate work related to development and management of a climate early warning system, an information sharing system to enhance monitoring and surveillance on climate change impacts in the marine, coastal and terrestrial ecosystems of the Cook Islands that can affect crop, infrastructure and water resources management practices. A concept paper has being prepared.

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

Output 2.1 – CCA/ DRR plans for each of the 11 Pa Enua

In this quarter, the SRIC team visited Atiu, Mangaia, Mauke and Aitutaki. The programme in the Pa Enua includes a series of meetings and broad discussions with the Island Council, respective communities and the various community groups. Emergency Management Cook Islands (EMCI) planner joined the team when they visited Aitutaki to assess and revise the Aitutaki Disaster Risk Reduction Plan. *SRIC CC reps are currently on Mitiaro Pa Enua.* As a result of these visits;

- Atiu, Mangaia, Aitutaki and Mauke Island Councils, respective Island communities including Womens, Growers associations, Tourism operators, Youth, Church and fishing groups and local representatives of Ministries are now aware of the SRIC-CC programme and the process in how they can access support and how support will be delivered into their community.
- The Community Sustainable Development Plans (CSDP) for Atiu, Mangaia, Aitutaki and Mauke now include CCA and DRR. The CSDP sets part of the framework to guide SRIC CC initiatives on the Pa Enua and is aligned with the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP), activities within the Joint National Action Plan (JNAP) and development initiatives for the respective community.
- Focal points on 2 of the visited Pa Enua (in quarter 1) nominated by the Island Council. Focal Point responsibilities include assisting PMU with overseeing the implementation, monitoring and reporting of SRIC-CC activities on the respective Pa Enua. The first alignment of proposals to the activities and

goals of their CSDP is also overseen by Focal Points.



PO-Robert Matapo presenting the SRIC CC programme to the Aitutaki Island Council -
Photo: OD

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

The PMU registered 7 positions for SRIC focal points in a proposal writing training that will take place on Rarotonga from the 8th-13th May. The training will be administered by the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) through the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. The PMU has arranged for the return travel of 7 focal points to Rarotonga to participate in this training. The proposal writing training will be followed by SRIC CC training for Focal Points from the 14th – 17th May 2013. SRIC CC PAC members are providing advice to PMU in the development of a training programme for the SRIC CC training.

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

Output 3.1 – Small grants to 11 Pa Enua and their communities

All proposals are developed by the applicants (community group, agency etc...) with the assistance of the respective focal points. They (FP's) use their respective Pa Enua CSDP as a guide. The Focal points advise the PMU of the proposals coming through. The PMU and FP progress the draft proposal. The Island Council is kept aware of the proposal progress.

The PMU ensures key areas in the draft proposal are addressed. In some cases draft proposals are approximately 80-85% complete due to information that can only be sourced from a specific agency on Rarotonga. The PMU then seeks the information required. When all required information is in the proposal this will then be forwarded to SRIC PAC for comments or advice. All proposals arrive at the PMU via the respective Island Councils and are aligned with the respective CSDP's.

Proposals for assistance under the Small Grants Programme are now being received by the PMU. To date, the PMU has received;

- Rakahanga draft proposal for outboard motors that enable fisherman to go out further to fish for Tuna. The proposal also supports the existing fish processing plant on Rakahanga that employs

youth. The fishing is generally done by the young men and the processing by the young women providing employment for youth on Rakahanga. Their product, the dried fish is sold on Rarotonga and in Manihiki. It is noted that youth are migrating to nearby Manihiki looking for work. The fish pieces are also given for the elderly in the villages. This proposal is designed to address a series of challenges on Rakahanga.

- Rakahanga draft proposal for community water tank repairs. The second proposal received from Rakahanga involves the repair of community stave water tanks (concrete).



Rakahanga Island Council has forwarded a draft proposal to repair their 45,000 litre community water tanks on Rakahanga. **Photo:** NPM

- Manihiki draft proposal for improved communications in the two safety centres (Tukao and Tauhunu) was reviewed and sent back to the Manihiki Focal Point to add more details.
- Atiu “Food preservation” programme. This draft proposal is being developed by a community group of Mama’s wanting to do their part in food security in their community by encouraging food preservation. They will start with a workshop in jarring fruits and intend to market their products. The Atiu Focal Point is assisting the Mama’s in preparing their proposal.

Output 3.2 – Climate resilient agriculture and fisheries practices

- Manihiki Agriculture draft proposal for a “Hydroponic system” in Tukao village was strengthened by the OPM policy division and handed to the Ministry of Agriculture “Food security” planner on Rarotonga to seek costs.
- Atiu Agriculture draft proposal and Atiu Marine draft proposal is currently being developed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Minister of Agriculture and Member of Parliament for Atiu. He is working in co-operation with the respective Atiu Island Council, Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment Services Officer and Marine Officer on Atiu. They are guided by the Atiu Community Sustainable Development Plan (CSDP).
- Mangaia “Home Garden” project proposal. This was recently received from the Mangaia Focal Point. The PMU will review this draft proposal and seek the best way forward.

Output 3.3 – Water management capacities enhanced

What can be done to maintain effectiveness of the water projects? This is discussed in water infrastructure projects with Island Councils. The Mayors have advised of past drought type events where households were charged a fee for water to be carted in by truck to fill their water tanks. They have also advised that while the tanks are a great assistance in communities, strategies must be put in place to ensure households are able and ready to pay for the cartage of water from larger community tanks. There is also the cost of maintenance or repairs to water tanks.

A fee system is being discussed in Island Councils. Relevant to this, is conservation awareness for households. The IC is aware that the Pa Enea by-laws (local policies) developed in consultation with the communities is the recommended starting point to strengthening water management mechanisms to ensure effectiveness of the projects. The pay system is a new concept in many communities and the Island Councils are discussing how they can introduce this.

Output 3.4 – Coastal protection enhanced

No progress to report from quarter 1 2013. The work plan for quarter 1 did not include any activities happening in this output. The PMU had planned to move other components forward first before starting this.

Output 3.5 – Resilience of Tourism Enterprises enhanced

- Atiu Tourism sector draft proposal for water tanks at tourist accommodations (on Atiu). This proposal is being developed by the Atiu Tourism sector committee with the assistance of their Focal Point. This proposal will include harvesting rain water and ground water. It is noted that when Atiu has dry spells, Tourist accommodators cancel bookings to preserve what water they have.

Output 3.6 – Health support and vector borne control introduced

The Pa Enea has much more stringent vector control measures in place than what is seen on Rarotonga. The support requested in the Pa Enea under this output is for resources (fog machine, water testing kits etc...) to assist the health inspectors in their inspections and for medication (larvae pellets).

Output 3.7 – Implement infrastructure projects

The challenge in Q1 for the PMU has being to secure a civil Engineer (full-time) as all are engaged in infrastructure projects for Government or the private sector. The PMU is coming closer to finalising an arrangement with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning (MOIP) to co-share two of their Engineers (who are currently engaged in Rarotonga “Project City”).

Output 4

Lessons learnt

- Until the SRIC CC Focal Points have received the required training, the PMU is utilising the services of senior government officials especially those with the “know how” because, they originate from the Pa Enea, to temporarily and voluntarily assist in the development of proposals for their respective Pa Enea. Many officials are assisting in this way.
- Many proposed initiatives, although targeting Climate Change Adaptation have the ability to address other underlying issues such as Pa Enea depopulation (retaining youth in the Pa Enea).
- There are many lessons learnt from other water infrastructure projects implemented in the Pa Enea. The PMU is incorporating these into our approaches.

Project Management

Strategic Results Framework (SRF)

The SRF task is about to be contracted out and involves using the services of two applicants for the task...a Melbourne based company and a local consultant. The PMU is now finalising the details in the implementation schedule with both parties.

Meetings

The meetings with SRIC-PAC and meetings with the STA and individual PAC members are very effective in that issues are discussed and solutions and assistance given to assist the PMU. Despite their busy schedules, members have always assisted the PMU where possible. On average, SRIC PAC meets once every three weeks. The NPM and PO meet with a member at the least once a week. The PMU is very appreciative of this work relationship and assistance.

Challenges faced by the PMU

In Q1, the PMU faced some challenges in employing a person with the right technical background to prepare all project documents for the water infrastructure projects. This is due to the fact that there are many similar projects happening at this time on Rarotonga at which many are already engaged in contracts. These caused delays. The position advertised in the local media, Government website and Wilco website was only able to attract 3 applicants. The PMU is now back on track, having recently engaged with a local technical person to commence this task.

Finance Officer starts

Although officially starting in quarter 2, the Part-time Finance Officer Ms Michelle Foster joined the PMU on the 2nd April 2013.



New Finance Officer for the PMU, Pictured (from left) Ms Foster, Chief of Staff - Mrs Elizabeth Koteka and SRIC CC Programme Manager - Willie Tuivaga **Photo:** CCCI.

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