



TUVALU COASTAL ADAPTATION PROJECT NEWSLETTER



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

TCAP 5TH BOARD MEETING	1
TCAP- EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS	2
TCAP- PARTNERSHIP WITH SPC	2
TCAP HANDING OVER DRONE TO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS & FEATURES STORY OF	2
UN75 COMMEMORATIONS	3
STAFF UPDATES	3
NATIONAL CONSULTANT & FUNAFUTI FLY OVER INFORMATION	4

TCAP BOARD MEETING

TCAP host 5th Project Board Meeting in Funafuti and Via Zoom, November 2020



November 20 – On 12 November 2020, TCAP conducted its 5th Board Meeting in Funafuti with some members of the TCAP team including technical specialists joining online via Zoom.

The Minister for Finance, Hon Seve Paeniu, who is also Tuvalu's National Designated Authority (NDA) and Chairman of the Board, opened the proceedings.

Following adoption of the minutes of the previous Board Meeting (held in October 2019), Project Manager Alan Resture presented the progress related to each of the three project outputs, noting the following key developments since the last Board Meeting:

- Completion of national LIDAR (land height data) survey, spanning all islands of Tuvalu
- National coastal vulnerability assessments initiated with SPC
- Development of a national coastal monitoring platform has begun
- Progress on environmental and social safeguards, including appointment of a new Safeguards Specialist; development of safeguards risk register; and updates to the Environmental Social Management Plan and as well as Grievance Redress Mechanism
- Completion of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments for each island (Funafuti, Nanumea and Nanumaga) and submission to Department of Environment for approval
- Completion of Gender Strategy and Action Plan for the project

• Completion of Island Strategy Plans, with climate-risks specific to their island, by three island communities -- Nanumea, Nanumaga, Niutao (to be made available in English as well as Tuvaluan)

• Kaupule staff on Nanumea, Nanumaga and Funafuti trained on Performance-Based Climate Resilient Grants

• Ongoing consultation with communities on coastal protection designs

With regards to TCAP's capacity-building component, the scholarships programme will support five candidates in 2021 – one for undergraduate studies and four for post-graduate/Masters studies. There will also be short-term trainings for government partners, facilitated by the Pacific Community (SPC) over a three-year period, 2021 to 2023, aimed at strengthening national capacity in coastal monitoring processes, hazard and risk assessment, data collection and analysis to support long term strategic planning and investment. There will also be training, conducted by Fugro, for partners and selected government officers on the use of LIDAR data.



The meeting focused primarily on the coastal protection designs for the islands covered by the project -- Funafuti, Nanumea and Nanumaga. Designs are expected to be completed, submitted to the Government, and shared with communities in the coming weeks. Chief Technical Advisor for the project, Dr Arthur Webb, stated groundwork activities are due to commence in the 3rd quarter of 2021. (Hon. Seve Paeniu raised that cyclone season usually begins during the 3rd-4th quarter of the year which may cause complications and delays and enquired whether work might commence in the 2nd quarter.)

Joint decision was made by the Nanumea community on the relocation of their Community Fishing Center, allowing for coastal protection measures to be more effective along that area.

The Board also discussed risks and challenges for the project in its implementation, including travel restrictions due to COVID-19. Concerns about the challenges associated with outer island travel, due to the unavailability of boats, were again raised and Government support was sought to secure improved access and transportation options.

Three key decisions were made by the Board:

1. Agreement to amend the current Letter of Agreement with the Pacific Community (SPC) to include training of government partners on coastal monitoring processes (2021 - 2023)
 2. Reprogramming of US\$3.5million to cater for capacity development for Tuvalu Survival Fund (TSF) board members (\$100,000) and revised coastal protection measures on Nanumea (\$3.4million)
 3. Endorsement of the revised Annual Work Plan for 2020 and Annual Work Plan for 2021
- The Mid-Term Evaluation for the project will be completed by the end of February 2021



TCAP EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS



Vaiaoga Vaisameni

Over the past years, there has been a great shift in the roles of Tuvaluan women at home, in the community, and at the national and international levels. Despite these positive developments, there are still opportunities

to enhance equality and women's empowerment in Tuvalu. To this end, since its inception, TCAP has undertaken discussions with government entities on maximizing women's participation in the project, including in decision-making, capacity-building and employment

HOW TCAP IS EMPOWERING WOMEN

Aimed at increasing resilience to climate change by enhancing coastal protection on the islands of Funafuti, Nanumaga and Nanumea, the Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project (TCAP) has a strong

focus on inclusion, with gender equality considerations built into its initial design, and an ongoing Gender Strategy and Action Plan in place. Principles of meaningful participation and responsibilities underpin TCAP with local knowledge and skills-building as two key elements.



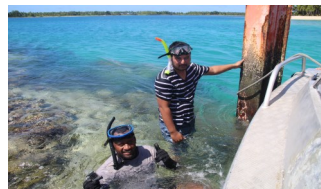
Temoulima -Nanumaga Youth Community Leader

Temoulima, 30, from Nanumaga said in her island, there have been big changes in household roles and responsibilities relative to 10 years ago. Traditionally, men hardly wash dishes or clothes, and never cooked, though they have held certain roles in the home – feeding pigs, cutting toddlers and fishing while women do domestic chores, weave mats, or make hand-crafts for a living. Nowadays, you can see men helping women with cooking, washing and even with weaving. "There is a big change in men and women's roles in our community, including in decision-making: in the past, island leaders made final deci-

PARTNERSHIP WITH PACIFIC COMMUNITY EXTENDED

In December 2018, TCAP and the Pacific Community (SPC) [signed a Letter of Agreement](#), outlining a partnership between the Government of Tuvalu, UNDP and SPC to collect and analyze data around Tuvalu's vulnerability to marine and coastal hazards, and the potential social and environmental impacts of the Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project. At TCAP's [5th Board Meeting](#) in November, the board agreed to extend the partnership to include training of government partners on climate change and coastal adaptation

between August 2019, a team from SPC joined TCAP in travelling to Nanumaga and Nanumea island to carry out geotechnical engineering assessments and to collect comprehensive data on sea level



Poate Degei from SPC & Ane Talia from the Department of Lands in Tuvalu

The result have since been integrated into TCAP's Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for each of the islands– a process for evaluating and managing the potential environmental and social impacts of a project-and inform the TCAP proposed coastal protection designs.

"The field investigation went smoothly, and we managed to collect all the required data, Our team received fantastic support from the Department of Lands &

Survey. UNDP, TCAP's local project team, Nanumaga & Nanumea communities themselves" said Garry Lee the Geotechnical Advisor in SPC Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division



Garry Lee from the SPC, Mataafa Olloliga a Nanumea youth and

DRONES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND SURVEY



Fatasi Malologa the Director of the Department of Lands & Survey in Tuvalu and Puanita Taomia TCAP Communication Officer

The Director of Tuvalu's Land and Survey Department, Mr Faatasi Malologa, and his staff recently had the great pleasure of

receiving a drone from TCAP. It is the second to be handed over to the Department: in May 2019, TCAP provided a drone and two desktop computers with software to process LiDAR data. Having multiple drones allows for teams from the Department to simultaneously collect data, said Ane Talia, a staff member with skills in flying the unmanned equipment.

The Lands Department & Survey Officers now have confidence in flying



drones and collecting and running data of Lidar from the drone.

Tuvalu wields state of the art data in the fight against climate change Surprisingly, until now, detailed and accurate measurement of land height has not existed for the majority of atoll islands in the

Pacific region, a crucial missing piece of the puzzle when it comes to understanding and responding to sea level rise. Now, new data collected by TCAP using state-of-the-art LIDAR, or Light Detection and Ranging, technology, sheds a light on the challenges in one of the world's most threatened nations — Tuvalu — with implications for other small island developing states around the world. [Read more on https://tcap.tv/news/2020/tuvalu-wields-new-data-fight-against-](https://tcap.tv/news/2020/tuvalu-wields-new-data-fight-against-)

TUVALU COMMEMORATE UNITED NATION 75TH ANNIVERSARY



Tuvalu Prime Minister Honorable Kausea Natano

On 26 June 1945, the [United Nations Charter was signed](#), a milestone moment in global history with 50 countries forging an organisation in support of cooperation, dialogue, and shared action for peace. With 2020 marking the 75th Anni-

versary of the signing, many countries around the world hosted special commemorative events. On 23 October, Tuvalu carried out its own celebration, kicking off with an early morning walk, followed by a Zumba session. In his remarks at the celebration, the Honorable Prime Minister Kausea Natano said that over the years the United Nations has assisted Tuvalu in many ways. Formalities were concluded with the cutting of a cake which was then shared among civil servants and UN



agency staff.

The UN Agencies in Tuvalu continue with showcasing all project supported by the UN to the public. Business Vendors were provide stalls to sell their products to the public. Few entertainment from different youths to give a break interval to projects. Quiz completion to the public was support-



STAFF UPDATES



Kristina Fidali Project Management Specialist

Kristina Fidali -TCAP would like to thank Kristina Fidali who recently completed a three-month contract with the project, supporting day-to-day management as well as budget re-programming for TCAP's multi-year work plan and finalizing the [Gender Strategy and Action Plan](#).

"TCAP by design is a transformative project," said Kristina. "The project is a

forerunner in resilient coastal development in the region and plays a fundamental role in knowledge generation that can be shared with other vulnerable island nations."

A co-founder of a Youth Environmental Sustainability NGO in Solomon Islands, and having worked with the World Meteorological Organization, UNDP and the Government of Solomon Islands, Kristina's experience was a great asset to the project. TCAP wishes her well as she now completes her doctorate studies in Environmental Rural Science in Australia, focusing on social ecological systems resilience in multi-ethnic coastal communities.



Paul Audin-Chief Technical Adviser Operations

Paul Audin -Born in France into a family of Brittany sailors, Paul grew up on a small island, two thirds of it being under sea level.

After many years as an aid development project manager and adviser across the West Indies, Africa, South Pacific, Central America and Australia, Paul's expertise encompasses tropical agriculture, natu-

ral resource management, rural community development and small infrastructure, erosion control, climate change adaptation and disaster risks reduction, food and water security and resilience, and training.

In Australia, he set up his own company dealing with land rehabilitation, restoration and revegetation. He prioritizes local knowledge, simultaneously strengthening the capacities of the government institutions, the traditional governance, the local civil society organizations, and the communities as well as the private sector.



Phillip Hawes-Safeguard Specialist

Phillip Hawes is an environmental scientist and project manager with over 30 years' experience in a range of industries, managing both environmental and engineering teams. His scientific experience is based on his training as a geolo-

gist/environmental scientist and project manager, backed up by extensive industry experience. Phillip has worked in approximately 40 countries worldwide and is a keen sailor, sea kayaker, and bush-walker who enjoys travel photography and cooking. He lives on an old farm in Brisbane, with his wife, surrounded by wildlife, their four chickens, Mr Darcy the peacock and Spot the dog.



Kate Jean Smith -Communication Specialist

Kate Jean Smith is a communications specialist with over 10 years experience working in international NGOs, government and international development organisations including working for the UK civil service and Australian Govern-

ment, WWF, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and UNDP. She holds a Bachelor's degree in History and Gender Studies, and a Masters in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Sydney, along with a Postgraduate Diploma in Communications Management from the University of Technology, Sydney. She is currently based in Australia and joins TCAP in support of the project's visibility and community engagement work.

TCAP Recruit National Consultants



TCAP has recruited two local graduate students from the University of the South Pacific –

Ms Mulifenua E Paul (right) and Ms Angella Betty (left) – to assist in translating recently completed Island Strategy Plans and managing materials for printing and distribution.

Fenua is proficient in data collection and analysis with a focus on effective workflow planning and research strategies for conservation. Angella is interested in the classification of ecosystems for environmental management and decision-making. “Through my experi-

ence, I have discovered the need for Tuvalu to be resilient and adaptive to the impacts of climate change,” says Fenua. “It has motivated me to work with the most vulnerable countries. I hope to help strengthen the capacities of those who need it most, with a focus on climate resilience and adaptation, so no-one is left behind in this rapidly changing world.”

“I am happy to work with others to protect our environment from human impacts and to reduce the effects of climate change, particularly through policy work,” said Angella.

Funafuti Fly over View of the Foreshore Reclamation Works

Animation of coastal protection work to be carried out on Tuvalu’s capital, Funafuti. TCAP proposes to reclaim approximately 250,000 cubic meters of sand from the lagoon to create a 700m long, 100m wide elevated area of land along the Vaiaku waterfront to the north of Queen Elisabeth Park. The reclaimed area will rise up to 3.5 meters above sea level to protect against inundation from cyclonic events and sea level rise.

You can view to see the video on <https://youtu.be/XbuFQpdEmU> on you tube.



PROJECT MESSAGE

TO REDUCE THE VULNERABILITY OF TUVALU TO FUTURE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

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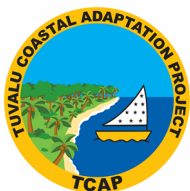
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