

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

*Porokaramu akamatutu'anga o te iti tangata i te tuatau manakokore'ia no te tau'anga reva*



ADAPTATION FUND



Office of the Prime Minister



**Country:** Cook Islands

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

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

**Period Covered:** October 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup> 2014

## **Summary of Overall Progress for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter as at October 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup> 2014**

- CLEWIS project – Technical assistant continues to populate Climate Early Warning Information System (CLEWIS) with data.
- CLEWS project – Documentation for procurement of hardware for CLEWS project undertakes several reviews and ready for advertising for a supplier.
- Focal Point refresher training conducted
- SGP Projects – Nassau Pa Enuu receives Boat, Outboard Motors and Boat trailer just before Christmas.
- SRIC-CC Programme has engaged the services of the Women in Business Development Incorporated (WIBDI) for Coconut Oil production for the women of Manihiki, Mauke and Atiu Pa Enuu
- Ministry of Health – SRIC-CC supports Ministry of Health to prepare for a potential response to mosquito virus after heavy rains.
- Atiu, Palmerston and Aitutaki household water tanks project – Atiu and Aitutaki water tank installation completed and Palmerston Pa Enuu 80% installation completed.
- Preparation for scoping of Mitiaro community water tanks Project continued in this quarter. Atiu and Aitutaki community tanks – scoping completed.
- Scoping and community consultations for the Northern Water project for Pukapuka, Nassau, Manihiki, Rakahanga and Penrhyn – to commence early in Quarter 1/2015.
- Designing for Tamarua water project -
- Knowledge materials – Climate Change indicators report completed and printed
- SRIC-CC Programme Officer – Departs the SRIC-CC Programme. Vacancy currently in the media.
- EU-GIZ co-financing agreements with SRIC-CC reviewed and finalised for signing.
- Visit by Ioane Iosefo
- Visit by the Resident Coordinator (photos)
- Visit by Kilali SGP agreement between SRIC-CC and National Host Institution.

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

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

#### **Activity 1.3.4 –**

- Climate Early Warning Information System (CLEWIS) project – Data gathering and populating this into the CLEWIS system continued in this reporting quarter. No further progress to report. The CLEWIS Project GEO-PORTAL is managed by Emergency Management Cook Islands and can be viewed at <http://www.emci.gov.ck>;
- Climate Early Warning System (CLEWS) project – All reviews completed. The tendering process will commence in Q1/ 2015.

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

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

#### Focal Point training –

- SRIC-CC Focal Point refresher training was conducted in Rarotonga from the 6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014. The training was attended by Focal Points from Rakahanga, Mangaia, Mauke, Mitiaro, Aitutaki and Nassau. In the training the participants delivered projects they were currently working on and shared their experiences with other Pa Enua participants.
- Pa Enua focal points that could not attend training in Rarotonga were given one to one training by the programme staff at a later date.
- The purpose of the training was for Pa Enua Programme staff to share the challenges and gather ways (through sharing) to better address some of the challenges they have come across. This was also an opportunity for the PMU to meet with individual focal points to go through their work schedules for 2015.



**Photo:** Nassau Pa Enuu focal point Ms Pamanini Tuatai shares her project experiences with other Pa Enuu focal points.

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

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

##### **Nassau**

- In this reporting quarter, Nassau Pa Enuu received a 16 foot Boat, 2 Outboard Motors and Boat trailer just before Christmas under the SGP. The resources will be used by the community and managed by the respective Island Administration. The project is a “strengthening livelihoods” project for the Nassau community that is visited by a ship four times a year. The community no longer has to borrow a boat for fishing.



**Photo:** Boat, trailer and outboard motors were shipped in from New Zealand to Rarotonga and shipped off to Nassau. The Island Council have reported the arrival of the boat, trailer and motors on Nassau.

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

The SRIC-CC Programme has engaged the services of the Women in Business Development Incorporated (WIBDI) in Samoa to train and assist in the setting up of Coconut Oil production for the women of Manihiki, Mauke and Atiu Pa Enuu.

The task of producing virgin coconut oil on Manihiki, Atiu and Mauke by the Mamas groups on these 3 Pa Enuu was contracted out to WIBDI. Women farmer representatives from Mauke, Atiu and Manihiki attended training with WIBDI in Samoa.

The representatives will assist their respective councils in identifying a favourable site for the construction of the virgin coconut oil production plants. They will also assist in the facilitating of training for the coconut oil production in their community in the next quarter and be a part of the management of the sites.

While in Samoa with WIBDI, they also saw the production of dried bananas. This also interested them as a way of earning a small income.



**Photo:** Women farmer reps from Mauke meet with coconut oil production teams in Samoa.

***Output 3.6 – Health support and vector borne control introduced***

With “Chikungunya virus” in the region, the Ministry of Health has equipped itself for potential mosquito virus operations that may be called if the reason to, arises. Equipment for such a response is also ready in the Pa Enea. In this quarter, information (in Maori and English) on symptoms for Dengue fever and Chikungunya virus were printed into pamphlets for distribution into homes. The same also contains information for identifying and clearing breeding sites close to residential areas and reporting such sites to the Ministry of Health. Cleaning potential breeding sites is an effective solution and communities continue to do this.

Over the festive season Christmas to New Years, there were floods in low lying areas on Rarotonga. This was due to the heavy rainfalls that happened during this period. Since the floods there is a notable increase in mosquitos around homes. Having the Ministry of Health and response stakeholders equipped to respond to an operations and awareness in the community will continue to be supported by the SRIC-CC programme.



**Photo:** Recent floods in low-lying areas on Rarotonga after heavy rains have led to a noticeable increase in mosquitos. Communities have seen this before and are aware of what can happen after if potential mosquito breeding sites are not cleared.

### ***Output 3.7 – Implement infrastructure projects***

#### **Palmerston, Aitutaki and Atiu household water tanks project**

All water tanks on Atiu and Aitutaki have been installed. The project manager is finalising the works completed report for these two Pa Enuu. Palmerston Pa Enuu is 80% completed. The next phase for these 3 projects is to run maintenance and water conservation and safety awareness programs in their respective communities.



**Photo (above):** These tanks are now popping up within the community on the isolated Palmerston Pa Enuu. The concrete tank bases are something that was not done in some of the other past water tank projects. Lessons have taught us of overflowing water scouring away sand bases causing tanks to tilt and tear.



**Photo (above):** This installation on Palmerston Pa Enea was an acceptance. The roof to the catchment area was approximately 1.400 meters high; the tank had to be buried approximately 1.000 meter in the ground with a channel dug out for the tank owner to collect water through a tap in the tank base. The tank been buried in the ground also minimised the chances of tilting.

### **Southern community water projects**

Due to a court decision (*following the recent general elections*) for the Mitiaro community to run a by-election, the SRIC-CC programme remained out of Mitiaro in the last quarter. Mitiaro community consultations and scoping will be completed in quarter 1/ 2015. Atiu and Aitutaki community tanks – scoping is completed.

### **Northern Water project**

Community water tanks scoping and community consultations for Pukapuka, Nassau, Manihiki, Rakahanga and Penrhyn will commence in quarter 1/ 2015. A chartered flight is planned to the North. The same charter will also see the implementation of the Rauti Para training programme in the Northern communities.



**Photos:** The renovation of these 45,000 litre community water tanks will be the focus of the Northern Water Project.

**EU-GIZ Co-financing agreement developed** – After returning from a Steering Committee meeting in Suva, the SRIC-CC Programme Manager and the Climate Change team have developed an agreement for the

funding of the Northern Water project between the SRIC-CC Programme and the EU-GIZ programme. All Pa Enua in the Northern Group of the Cook Islands will benefit from this co-financed project.

### Output 4

**Knowledge materials** – the Climate Change indicators report by Dr Teina Rongo and Celine Dyer of Climate Change Cook Islands. This document will be publically launched in early quarter 1/ 2015 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

- SRIC-CC Programme Officer, resigned from the programme to seek opportunities in Auckland, New Zealand. The SRIC-CC Programme wishes Robert Matapo all the best in his future endeavours. The vacancy for the Programme Officer position is currently been advertised.

#### **Visit by loane losefo**

UNDP representative loane losefo visited the SRIC-CC programme management unit to provide financial management training using UNDP systems. While in the Cook Islands, loane also supported the PMU with finance reporting and through a series of meetings; loane also facilitated the drafting of the Letter of Agreement for additional support of UNDP as an MIE by the SRIC-CC programme.



**Photo:** loane and the OPM team pictured in front of the Office of the Prime Minister.

#### **Visit by the Resident Coordinator**

UN Resident Coordinator Ms Lisbeth Cullity and UNDP resident representative Mr. Filifilia Iosefa visited the Cook Islands from 11<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> December 2014. The mission to the Cook Islands also included a visit to Aitutaki Pa Enua with the SRIC-CC Programme Manager to meet with the respective Island Council and meet with beneficiaries of the Aitutaki Household water tanks project.



**Photo:** UN RC (Cullity) and UNDP rep (Iosefa) meet with SRIC-CC Programme Management Unit and representative of the Te Ipukarea Society – Mr Kelvin Passfield.

**Visit by Kilali Alailima to facilitate agreement between SRIC-CC and GEF with National Host Institution.**

In December, Kilali Alailima of UNDP met with SRIC-CC, GEF and Cook Islands Red Cross Society (CIRCS) representatives to facilitate the agreements between SRIC-CC and GEF in utilising the services of the National Host Institute (CIRCS). As a result, SRIC-CC and the NHI are now finalising formal agreements.



**Photo:** Kilali Alailima (center) meets with representatives of CIRC, GEF and SRIC-CC to facilitate agreements.

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