



TUVALU COASTAL ADAPTATION PROJECT NEWSLETTER



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- TCAP PMU TUVALU STAFF RETREAT** 1
- TCAP ESIA PROGRESS** 2
- TCAP SUPPORTIVE INCLUSIVE CLIMATE SMART DEVELOPMENT** 2
- TCAP UNDERGOES INDEPENDENT MID TERM EVALUATION CHANGE** 3
- COMMUNICATION TRAINING** 3
- SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES** 4

TCAP TUVALU PMU RETREAT



Photo: TCAP staff retreat at Afelita Resort. From L-R: Pine-Andy Tonga, Alan Resture, Mulifenua Paul, Paul Audin & Puanita Ewekia.

In February 24—25, TCAP’s Project Management Unit came together for a team retreat at Afelita Resort on Mulitefala, one of Funafuti’s islets. The purpose of the retreat was to build staff capacity in delivering TCAP’s three components, by understanding the roles and responsibilities of the Project Management Unit and paving a clear pathway for the project’s activities and work planning for the year. On his way through Suva in January, TCAP Chief Technical Advisor Operation, Paul Audin facilitated a similar training with the TCAP Project Management Unit team members based in Suva.

One of the main objectives was to strengthen results-based planning to enable staff to have better control over project activities, in a coordinated manner and with a positive team spirit

The retreat helped identify weaknesses, strengths and best practices to narrow or fill implementation gaps, with an emphasis on teamwork. It was truly an eye-opener, helping the team focus and see the importance of dedicating every available resource to achieving the project’s goals. It was also a good opportunity to reflect on past and future planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. For this, the team utilised a checklist to assess what has been achieved, what has not been achieved and the way forward for the success of the project

Photo: Standing: CTA Paul Audin.



Sitting: Alan Resture (Project Manager), Pine-Andy Tonga (Administrative Assistant), and Mulifenua E Paul (IC). Photographed by Puanita Ewekia (Communication)

Pine Andy Tonga (TCAP Finance Administration Assistant) said she learned a lot from the retreat on the importance of the Project Management Unit, highlighting the three important components of setting up a workplan, the management of the implementation of project deliverables according to the workplan, and the importance of working collaboratively.

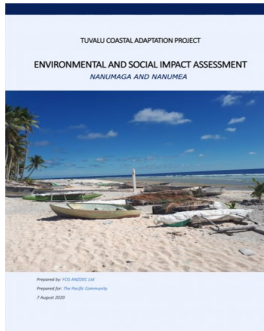
Additionally, Mulifenua Elisaia Paul (a national consultant to the project on proficient data collection and analysis, with a focus on effective workflow planning and research) said she gained a better understanding of the structure of the project, its protocols, the value of strong teamwork and the importance of following and achieving the activities set out in the annual workplan for 2021.

The retreat was timely as the project approaches the commencement of coastal protection construction this year.

Photo Credited Christine



TCAP ENVIRONMENT SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT



With the support of the Pacific Community (SPC), TCAP has completed Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) reports for the islands of Funafuti, Nanumaga and Nanumea

The reports were prepared in response to the Department of Environment's requirement for all projects to provide detailed assessment of any potential environmental and social impacts of its works and activities, including at ancillary sites and contain descriptions of baseline conditions and the predicted qualitative and quantitative impacts of the project's activities on the islands. They also include mitigation, monitoring and institutional measures to be taken during the implementation of the project's activities

TCAP has submitted the reports to the Department of Environment, which is currently undergoing public consultations. With assistance from Safeguards Specialist Philip Hawes, a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) has been developed to address any complaints and/or concerns. A GRM committee will be formed to address any complaints that may be beyond the capacity of the project.

The ESIA reports are now available on the TCAP website at <https://tcap.tv/news-resources> for any



interested persons. All comments raised with regards to the reports can be forwarded to the Department of Environment by emailing tilia.tima@gmail.com

TCAP SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE-CLIMATE SMART DEVELOPEMNT FOR TUVALUANS



To strengthen the integration of climate change and disaster risk concerns in Island Strategic Plans, the [Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project](#) (TCAP) has been working with local councils (Kaupules) and communities, including women and youth, to develop budgeted Island Strategic Plans that are inclusive, climate-smart, and responsive to the needs of different groups

In Tuvalu, Island Strategic Plans ('Palani Atiake') are four-year plans or blueprints which map the key development priorities and outline proposed developments on an island. It was about a decade or so ago (in 2010s) that the first generation of Island Strategic Plans were developed

One of the key objectives of the Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project is to strengthen awareness and knowledge for resilient coastal

management. In support of this, the project has initiated support to help islands to finalise their Island Strategic Plans, and to deliver training to ensure Kaupules and communities are empowered with the knowledge they need to effectively manage climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction into the future. The project has also been working to establish a mechanism to access finance for priority developments

Training on how to mainstream climate change and disaster risk into planning has been conducted on [Funafuti](#) and [Nanumea](#). More than one third of participants have been women, a positive out-



come given traditional governance at local level is predominantly patriarchal

Of the current round of Island Strategic Plans (the third generation) for 2020-2023, all of them identified climate change as a priority area requiring the attention of Kaupules and Falekaupules. This is an indication that island governments and their communities are very conscious of the disastrous impacts of climate change," said Feue Tipu. "The involvement of TCAP, in supporting the enhancement of adaptation issues in the plans, was timely: there's really a great need for additional resources to bolster their preparation and implementation (especially with respect to their monitoring, evaluation and reporting), as well as to build the capacity of Kaupule staff and the Department of Local Government.

Seven of Tuvalu's eight islands have now completed plans, with Nukufetau planned for March 2021, and

To streamline and systematize development planning at Kaupule level, the Ministry of Local Government and Agriculture has recently introduced the 'Kaupule Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework'. The introduction and training on the new policy framework is scheduled for the second half of next month, March 2021.

An initial 'Train the Trainer' workshop is planned for Kaupule officials and various Ministry representatives in Funafuti in March, with localised follow-up throughout the year. Further training in accessing grants -- to support Kaupules' work in mainstreaming climate change and disaster risk concerns -- will also take place this year.



TCAP UNDERGOES INDEPENDENT MID TERM EVALUATION



The Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project is at the half-way mark and so has undergone an independent mid-term evaluation as required by the UN Development Programme and Green Climate Fund. South Africa-based [C4 EcoSolutions](#) conducted the recently completed review, with the final report to be delivered to the Project Board by the end of March.

The report highlighted a number of strengths of the project, including its participatory nature (with stakeholder engagement at the national, district

and community levels), strong



country ownership, alignment with Tuvalu's development and climate change adaptation priorities and relevant policies and plans, and the completion of the [LiDAR survey](#) (a major step forward in terms of providing a comprehensive assessment of land heights across Tuvalu)

Importantly, however, it also highlighted areas that TCAP needs to focus on to ensure all its objectives are realised, and provided recommendations as the project moves forward into its second half. The Project Management Unit and UNDP will be reviewing each of these *and*, with the guidance of the

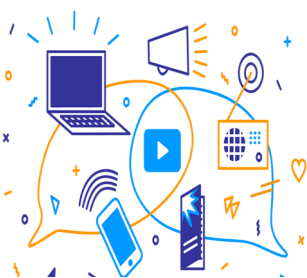


[Anthony Mills CEO C4EcoSolutions](#)

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Project Board, acting on them as it moves forward into another busy year — including the start of coastal protection construction on the three islands of Funafuti, Nanumaga and Nanumaga. The C4EcoSolutions (Carbon| Conservation| Climate| Community Developing innovative evidence-based solutions for adapting to Climate Change and conserving biodiversity) Team leader Anthony Mills and Team with the National consultant Saamu Tui will end their contract on March.

COMMUNICATION TRAINING



Communication is a crucial component of any project – without it, how would you know what was happening? As well as improving our knowledge management so the project is more effective and

Consulting with partners and communities in-person, TCAP uses online channels such as the [tcap.tv](#) website, this quarterly e-newsletter, and Twitter [@TCAPforTu8](#) and [Facebook](#) to keep local and international audiences up to date.

We're now focused on getting updates out in more efficient ways. As such, we've been engaging in communications training to improve our newsletter distribution, learning new skills for social media, and improving our knowledge management so the project is

more effective and responsive so we can focus on getting results on the ground



[Kate Jean Smith TCAP Communication Specialist Consultant \(left\)](#) [Puanita Taomia Ewekia \(right\) TCAP Communication Officer](#)

The project values the community views/opinion (communications) on decision making on project designs of the coastal protection and need approvals (sign documents) from the Falekaupule Leaders. Also share partners reports when engaging with the project. The project promotes the message "To reduce the vulnerability of Tuvalu to future impact of climate change

SCHOLARHIP PROGRAMME UPDATE



Lamese Samu, Panama Niuatui, Charles Leepo, Simon Willy, Feagaiga Penivao

While Tuvalu has been lucky not to record a single case of COVID-19, the pandemic caused a number of disruptions to TCAP's activities last year, including to the scholarship programme. Most students were forced to defer their studies to 2021 due to the travel lockdown. The exception was Simon Willy who commenced his Bachelor of Arts in Geography

(GIS) & Environmental Marine Studies at the University of the South Pacific .

However, a number of students have now received acceptance letters from Universities in Australia and have commenced studying online, including; Lisepa Fianta Seve Paeniu, who has commenced a Masters in Environmental Law ; Lamese Saamu, who has commenced a Masters in Geo Spatial Science

Charles Leepo, who has commenced a Masters in Coastal Civil Engineering

Panama Niuatui (Bachelor of Coastal Civil Engineering) and Feagaiga Penivao (Masters in Coastal Management) are waiting for the re-opening of Australia's borders to commence their studies.



Lisepa Fianta Seve Paeniu

Paeniu said that completing a Masters in Environmental Law will equip her better to assist the government in this field, and in negotiating and drafting agreements (a qualification currently in short supply). She added that after completion of the programme, she looks forward to using her skills and knowledge to improve the laws, regulations, and policies in place for protecting Tuvalu's environment.

PROJECT MESSAGE

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

Newsletter Editor

Puanita Taomia Ewekia

TCAP Communication Specialist

Funafuti

Tuvalu

puanita.ewekia@undp.org

Alan Resture

Project Manager

Funafuti

Tuvalu

alan.resture@undp.org

Can find more information on
www.tcap.tv

Twitter- @TCAPforTU8

Facebook -Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation
Project



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