



Gouvernement Princier  
PRINCIPAUTÉ DE MONACO



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

# Introducing PACRES



## About PACRES

The €12.18 million Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) is funded primarily by the European Union (€12 million) with targeted support from Monaco and the Swiss Confederation.

PACRES aims to ensure better regional and national adaptation and mitigation responses to climate change challenges facing Pacific ACP countries<sup>1</sup>. It is being delivered jointly by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Pacific Community (SPC) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) through mid-2023.

PACRES support to enhance resilience to climate change and natural disasters is being delivered through a range of regional and national activities.

<sup>1</sup> The 15 Pacific ACP countries are: Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

## Pacific Resilience Partnership

PACRES is strengthening regional coordination in climate change and disaster resilience through the multi-stakeholder Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) for the effective implementation of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) - an integrated approach to address climate change and disaster risk management.

In practice, this involves supporting the PRP Governance Arrangement endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in 2017 to bring together stakeholders in a more coordinated and structured manner. PACRES is supporting:

- the PRP Support Unit (comprising PIFS, SPREP and SPC), including dedicated PRP/FRDP Coordinators at PIFS and SPREP;
- the multi-stakeholder PRP Taskforce with its unique composition, embracing the principle of inclusion, reflected in its equal representation of civil society and the private sector alongside government, regional agencies and partners of which the EU represents the development partners;
- the PRP Technical Working Groups (TWGs) set up to respond to five identified priority issues: Disaster Risk Finance, Human Mobility, Information and Knowledge Management, Localisation and Risk Governance. This includes co-financing from the Swiss Confederation to build capacity on climate change related migration, displacement and planned relocation for resilient development through the Human Mobility TWG;
- the biennial Pacific Resilience Meeting, that brings together stakeholders to elevate and demonstrate Pacific-led resilience actions that inspire learning and connection through diverse and inclusive approaches from our home to the global stage. PACRES was the major supporter of the 2021 PRM, held virtually with national hubs from 6 – 8 July with a pre-PRM Youth meeting on 5 July <http://www.resilientpacific.org/2021-prm/>;
- Ongoing communication and advocacy, knowledge sharing and learning to drive improved and coherent resilience actions through PRP webinars (for more details: [www.resilientpacific.org](http://www.resilientpacific.org)): and
- Developing the FRDP M & E Framework to ensure the quality, effectiveness and integrity of resilience building regionally. Once the Framework has been approved, PACRES will develop an FRDP M & E e-learning course based on the Framework.

## Scaling up climate change adaptation pilots

PACRES is scaling up climate change adaptation pilots, including ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) solutions in Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu. These are the five Pacific ACP countries not receiving support to scale up adaptation pilots under PACRES's partner project - GCCA+ Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (SUPA). It is hoped these pilots will serve as references for further scaling up in the region. In addition to the pilots, SPC has a supporting grants facility and USP is building capacity at local and sub-national levels.

PACRES also aims to integrate adaptation/EbA across national, sub-national and community level resilience and sustainable development plans and strategies. To date, this has included support to revise Solomon Islands' NDC and National Climate Change Policy and develop the Masamasa-Falelima National Park Management Plan in Samoa.

In Vanuatu PACRES will conduct training for government and non-state actors in joint planning to strengthen coordination for implementing EbA solutions using PACRES work around Port Vila as a 'field-laboratory' to gain experience in multi-agency cooperation, planning and implementation.

Adaptation pilots being scaled up through PACRES and the SPC grants have a focus on EbA solutions, including shoreline protection and food security and enhancing water security.

In Papua New Guinea PACRES will work in the coastal community of Karama and nearby communities in Gulf Province to build resilience to climate change and natural disasters. This builds on earlier support for Karama community delivered by the Climate Change Development Authority (CCDA) and its predecessor. SPC grants will fund projects to enhance ecosystem-based shoreline protection and food security in the Gulf and Central Provinces.

In Solomon Islands and Vanuatu PACRES is scaling up EbA activities begun under the Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) Project funded by the German Government and implemented by SPREP between 2015 and 2020. This is important as one of the PEBACC lessons learned is that EbA interventions should ideally occur over a longer time period than conventional projects - preferably 5-10 years. Building on the initial PEBACC investments, PACRES is continuing to support EbA work in the Barana Nature and Heritage Park, the Honiara Botanical Garden and the Mataniko and Tagabe River catchments, as well as commencing urban greening around Port Vila and the Honiara CBD.

In May 2021, SPREP and USP PACRES teams in Port Vila organised a three-day tree-planting workshop in collaboration with the Departments of Climate Change and Forests. The workshop aimed to enhance the understanding and capacity of change agents from provincial and municipal offices and communities in tree planting and nurturing. A total of 24 participants (14 women, 10 men) were trained and planted 500 mahogany seedlings in Erangorango, the upper Tagabe River watershed and Zone 3 of the Matnakara Protection Zone of the Port Vila Water Source.

In Samoa the focus is on water security and EbA activities in Savaii while in Timor-Leste the focus is on water security and conducting integrated vulnerability assessments.

Monaco has provided co-financing for an additional marine and coastal component for PACRES to scale up adaptation options which is currently being scoped.



## Building professional resilience networks

In work led by SPC PACRES is scaling up professional resilience capacity to support Pacific ACP countries. Building on activities under the earlier EU-PACTVET Project, PACRES is supporting the Pacific Regional Federation of Resilience Professionals, revising technical and vocational education and training (TVET) resilience qualifications 1-4 and developing resilience qualifications for levels 5 and 6.



## Building private sector resilience to climate change and natural disasters



PACRES is helping the private sector to strengthen its engagement with government and other stakeholders to increase private sector awareness of climate finance in order to build resilient operations and investments. This work is being implemented jointly with national private sector organisations and the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO) and aims to enhance the private sector's access to climate finance and facilitate private sector partnership arrangements.

Key activities include private sector workshops on climate finance in the three Pacific sub-regions, regional peer to peer learning, development of knowledge products and national private sector mapping for climate change and resilience activities.

## Strengthening climate change and disaster resilience networks



At the regional level PACRES is strengthening climate change and disaster resilience network through its support for the PRP.

In early 2023 PACRES will convene an Intra-ACP Lessons Learned Meeting that will bring together practitioners from the Pacific, the Caribbean and elsewhere to share lessons on what has and what hasn't worked in implementing climate change and disaster resilience activities in small island developing states, including lessons from PACRES.

In Papua New Guinea PACRES will support two workshops to strengthen existing climate change and disaster resilience networks and identify opportunities for future funding.

USP is strengthening networks at the community and sub-national levels and promoting communication between local governments and communities for improved implementation of local development plans on climate change and disaster risk management.



## Supporting Pacific UNFCCC negotiators

Through PACRES, SPREP and USP are supporting our Pacific UNFCCC negotiators. SPREP's PRP/FRDP Coordinator supported Pacific negotiators at COP25 in Madrid and SPREP hosted the inaugural Post-COP analysis workshop in June 2020.

USP has provided training and supported attendance of a number of young negotiators at COP25 and will continue to support young negotiators at COP26 in November 2021.

## Targeted support for SUPA countries

In the 10 SUPA countries where PACRES is not scaling up adaptation pilots, it is providing targeted support to review and develop climate change and disaster resilience strategies and policies, mainstream climate change and disaster resilience across national strategies and policies and maintain national climate change portals. To date this has included development of Nauru's national climate change policy, finalisation of Tuvalu's national climate change policy and support for climate change portals in Tonga and Tuvalu. Planning is well advanced to support activities in other countries.

## Strengthening the Pacific's research capacity

PACRES is strengthening the Pacific's research capacity through 5 USP scholarships – one Ph.D. and four Masters in Climate Change degrees and developing on-line postgraduate courses in climate action.



# Newsletter

Welcome to the PACRES Newsletter



## In This Issue:

Introduction to the team	2
Working through COVID 19	2
Pacific Resilience Partnership	2
Masamasa-Falelima National Park	3
Private sector support	4
Coastal Clean Up	5
What resilience means	6



## PACRES Newsletter

Welcome to the first PACRES Quarterly!

Funded by the European Union, the Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) aims to deliver better regional and national adaptation and mitigation responses to climate change challenges faced by the 15 Pacific ACP countries. The €12 million project is being delivered jointly by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Pacific Community (SPC) and the University of the South Pacific (USP).



## About PACRES

PACRES is providing regional support to Pacific ACP countries by:

- strengthening regional coordination in climate change and disaster resilience through the multi-stakeholder Pacific Resilience Partnership for the effective implementation of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) - an integrated approach to address climate change and disaster risk management
- assisting national governments in United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations
- scaling up Pacific professional resilience capacity, including through enhanced technical and vocational education and training qualifications
- increasing the access to and reach of climate change and disaster resilience information
- building the Pacific's resilience in climate change by supporting postgraduate studies through the USP component; and

- strengthening strategic engagement and dialogue with the private sector to deepen regional and public sector understanding of the role and contribution of the private sector with respect to climate change and disaster resilience.

In Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu PACRES is scaling up adaptation pilots including ecosystem-based solutions. These are the five Pacific ACP countries not receiving support under GCCA+ Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA).

In other participating Pacific ACP countries, PACRES will support:

- review or development of climate change and disaster resilience strategies and policies;
- strengthening of monitoring and evaluation processes;
- further mainstreaming of climate change and disaster resilience;
- national climate change information portals; or
- a combination of the above.

# Meet the PACRES team

We will be introducing the full PACRES team in future newsletters, including our USP research and community officers and PACRES project officers stationed in partner countries. The PACRES leads for each participating agency are:



**Dr. Martin Sharp,**  
PACRES Project  
Manager based at  
SPREP



**Ms. Teea Tira,**  
PIFS PACRES  
Coordinator



**Ms. Melanie Farman,**  
SPC PACRES  
Coordinator; and



**Dr. Prerna Chand,**  
USP PACRES  
Team Leader.

# Working through COVID-19

While travel restrictions caused by COVID-19 have had an impact on PACRES delivery, we have continued activities where practicable using virtual means. One example was the Post-COP Analysis Workshop held over three days in late June 2020

<https://www.sprep.org/news/pacific-takes-stock-of-cop25-in-lead-up-to-next-global-climate-change-conference>

## Pacific Resilience Partnership

PACRES is supporting the PRP through governance arrangements that include the Task Force with representation from government, civil society, private sector, regional organisations, academia and partners. The governance arrangements also include the biennial Pacific Resilience Meeting (PRM), the Support Unit comprised of PIFS, SPREP and SPC and Technical Working Groups (TWGs). The TWGs provide an avenue for countries and partners to come together to progress priority issues identified through the Taskforce or PRM and to date have been prompted and facilitated by different agencies with a common focus and interest on specific issues. So far five TWG have been established on Human Mobility, Localisation, Disaster Risk Finance, Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) and Risk Governance.

This newsletter looks at the Risk Governance TWG, co-chaired by Loti Yates, Director of Solomon Islands National Disaster Management Office and Vasiti Soko, Director of the Fiji National Disaster Management Office. The Risk Governance TWG understands that well-functioning disaster and climate risk management arrangements must be grounded in a strong legislative basis, at national and local level to guide all aspects of risk management. Its objective is to strengthen risk governance for resilient development in the Pacific through strengthening regional collaboration, promoting best practices, providing guidance for national policy and legislation development processes and facilitating

exchange of lessons learnt. It has an initial focus on the development and implementation of climate smart disaster risk management legal frameworks. Membership has reflected this focus and draws from the National Disaster Management Offices (NDMO) and legal offices across the Pacific, as well as regional agencies.

At their recent meeting on 25 May, 2020 Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu were represented through their NDMO and Attorney General's office with dynamic discussions on country experiences in relation to the impacts of COVID-19, Tropical Cyclones Tino and Harold. It was a practical sharing of experiences, challenges and lessons learnt by our national officials on the frontline of their country's response measures.

Next steps will include to start collecting legislation or orders promulgated during COVID-19, and collecting resources to help in planning regional collaboration between the NDMO offices. This will inform research to identify areas of improvement in existing policy and legal frameworks linking health responses with climate change and disaster risk responses. The Risk Governance TWG demonstrates the value of collaborative approaches that bring together the different expertise and knowledge to inform what can be done better in the context of resilience building.



## Samoa conducts baseline survey of Masamasa-Falelima National Park in Savaii Island

The very first baseline survey and assessment of the Masamasa-Falelima National Park has indicated evidence of the presence of the Manumea, Samoa's endemic rare tooth-billed pigeon. The survey took place in June this year as part of the Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) activity to prepare a Management Plan for the Park.

The survey assesses current status of flora and fauna to identify the best management strategies and actions are for the Park. It was conducted by the Government of Samoa's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MNRE) with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), "There were a number of interesting key findings, including evidence of the presence of the Manumea, which is believed to be on the verge of extinction. We are excited to publish the findings of the survey and begin working with SPREP to draft the Park Management Plan," said Moafanua Tolusina Pouli, Assistant Chief Executive Officer of MNRE Forestry Division.

"The survey of the Masamasa-Falelima National Park took us two weeks to complete, as we covered an extensive land area - a total of 5,648 acres. This is the first time to carry out a baseline assessment of the area which is crucial for the development of the Management Plan."

A total area of 2400m<sup>2</sup> of forest and 55 bird count sites were included in the survey, which covered 24 forest plots as well as the south coast end between Fagafau and Falelima villages to the Park edge on Northwest Savaii - Asau and Vaisala villages.

Seventy per cent of the park is covered almost entirely by Forest Plantations, which were replanted following the logging operations of the 1960s and



1970s in west Savaii. It is estimated that a large portion of the initial forest plantation was also destroyed by Cyclones Ofa in 1990 and then Val in 1991.

In 2007, following the declaration of the National Park the replanting of native tree species such as malili, tava, and asi toa was a priority, to naturalise the area with Samoan forest trees.

The 30 per cent of the Park that was not replanted is covered by unlogged forest, now dominated by siapatua (*Elaeocarpus angustifolius*), the naturalised invasive alien forest tree common along the west of Savaii. This is a result of the damage caused by the 1990 Cyclones.

Despite the Park area being covered by planted exotic trees, a very high diversity of native flora and fauna was noted during the survey, especially in higher altitude areas.

The survey found evidence of the presence of Samoa's critically endangered endemic manumea bird, along with several other threatened bird species of Samoa such as the Samoan white eye, island thrush, many coloured fruit dove, and Samoan whistler.

"SPREP is pleased to partner with the Government of Samoa for an activity that has so many positive national findings.. We're grateful for the funding support from the European Union which

has helped enable the very first step to a management plan for the Masamasa-Falelima National Park of Samoa," said Ms Tagaloa Cooper-Halo, Director of Climate Change Resilience of SPREP. "Pacific resilience is crucial for our Pacific communities and the stronger our environment is, the better we are able to bounce back from the impacts of climate change."

A positive outcome of the survey was the absence of the invasive myna birds, an invasive species that is rampant in Upolu island.

The Masamasa-Falelima National Park extends from the north to the south of Asau – Falelima forest areas and provides a very important environmental function for the conservation of biodiversity, and as a natural carbon sink.

A major consideration for the Management Plan is the looming dilemma on the use of the exotic forest plantations as an economic asset, against its value for building climate resilience as well as the impact on the native biodiversity.

The survey was conducted from 15 – 26 June, 2020 with Mr. Toeolesulusulu Cedric Schuster the PACRES consultant, members of the Forestry Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment from both Upolu and Savaii, and Ms Emma Arasi-Sua, PACRES Knowledge Management Officer.



## Private sector support to accessing climate finance and other investment funds

PACRES has recently supported a national mapping project in Solomon Islands to identify increased opportunities by the private sector to access climate change and other investment funds. The project was a joint collaboration by the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry with the Ministries of Finance and Treasury and Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, supported by PIFS.

According to the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) Chairperson, Mr. Jay Bartlett, the private sector mapping has made existing public-private partnerships stronger with new guidance and interest by SICCI members in accessing climate change resources for mitigation and adaptation activities as resilient business operators.

A similar mapping project is planned for Tonga.

This private sector mapping builds on earlier support in Cook Islands in 2019 where PIFS, in collaboration with the Government of Cook Islands through the Climate Change Office and the Chamber of Commerce supported the national mapping of climate change and disaster related activities as well as a national and subregional workshop for the private sector. The overall objective was to advance the dialogue on resilience building through improved access to climate finance and strengthening public private partnership. The Cook Islands Private Sector Climate Change Issues Mapping Workshop was held from 1 - 2 October 2019 followed by the Polynesia Sub-regional Workshop on 3 - 4 October 2019.

“ The overall objective was to advance the dialogue on resilience building through improved access to climate finance and strengthening public private partnership. ”



USP PACRES scholars organised a beachfront clean up event at USP's Marine Campus.



## Coastal Clean Up

To commemorate the World Environment Day and the World Oceans Day, the USP PACRES scholars organised a beachfront clean up event at USP's Marine Campus on 6 June 2020. The event was organised amidst the COVID-19 crisis; as such, appropriate social distancing regulations were followed during the cleanup.

In an effort to promote networking among youth, climate change veterans and donors, invites were extended to high school students, USP's climate change students, Professor Pal Ahluwalia, Vice Chancellor and President of USP, Ambassador Sujiro Seam, Head of the Delegation of the European Union in the Pacific, Professor Elisabeth Holland, Climate Change Professor at USP, Dr. Morgan Wairiu, Acting Director, Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (PaCE-SD), PACRES project partners, SPREP and PIFS.

"Our sustainability ambitions stretch

across campus operations, teaching and research and PaCESD champions this ambition and it is very encouraging to know that the climate change postgraduate students are leading with the "walk the talk" responsibility!

"Let us use this event to encourage and empower one another to protect our natural surroundings and be environment and oceans guardians and champions," he said.

Professor Ahluwalia thanked the EU and PaCE-SD for supporting the PACRES project and the students for providing a great opportunity to celebrate both World Environment Day and the International Oceans Day with a coastal cleanup.

The event helped to raise awareness and create an opportunity to reflect on the responsibility in the important task of preserving and enhancing our environment.

“ Let us use this event to encourage and empower one another to protect our natural surroundings and be environment and oceans guardians and champions. ”



Our community is educated and prepared to face disaster. But being resilient is about having trust and confidence in the support you can get from relatives and neighbours, as well as being ready to offer your help to others. The solidarity from the community is the most reliable source for recovering from a disaster.

Name : Ms Vula Tokasa  
Age : 55  
Country : Fiji  
Title: Leader of Tamavua Village Methodist Church Women Fellowship.



Disaster and Climate Resilience to me is about strengthening communities capacities on existing traditional practices/ skills in identifying risks and solutions to peoples safety and ability to respond”

Name: Jofiliti Veikoso  
Age: 27yrs  
Country: Fiji  
Role: Child Inclusion Officer ( Child Centered Disaster Risk Reduction Project)”



I am from Malekula, and live in Port-Vila. While Pam hit, nobody thought a cyclone could be so bad. Nobody believes it would be the monster it was. So for me, resilience can only be reached when information is accessible and accurate and communities listen to guidance and prepare properly.

Name: Loveinia Philemon  
Age : 40  
Country : Vanuatu  
Title: Housewife and mother of two girls.



Disaster and Climate Resilient is being prepared and able to withstand disaster and effects of Climate Change.

Name: Faith A. Siba  
Age: 25  
Country: Federated States of Micronesia  
Title/Role/Status: Project Manager, FSM Ridge-to-Reef: International Waters Project



Resilience is the ability to recover from the consequences of a disaster and climate change

Name: Marika Alice Kulbach Moala  
Age: 25  
Country: Tonga  
Title: Disaster Management Officer for Tonga Red Cross Society



Climate disaster resilience means the ability to recover from any hazards that affects development.

Name: Ratu Jope Naucabalavu Sukanaveita  
Age: 30  
Country: Fiji  
Other title: Unity Fiji Party Youth Vice President. (Occupation: HR Assistant - Vinod Patel Company Pte Ltd)

# Welcome to the PACRES Newsletter



INTRAC-ACP GCCA+ PROGRAMME: An initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States funded by the European Development Fund

March 2021

Volume 2

# Newsletter

## In This Issue:

Scaling up of TVET in the Pacific	1
About PACRES	2
Pacific Resilience Partnership	4
Supporting IVAs in Timor-Leste	5
PACRES in Vanuatu	6
Private sector mapping in Tonga	7
ESRAM Consultation in Saleaula	8

## Meet the team



**Ms. Anais Rouveyrol,**  
SPC Advisor for  
Disaster Risk  
Management  
and Community  
Resilience



**Ms. Melinda A. Mathers,**  
SPC TVET team leader



**Mr. Ledua Vakaloloma,**  
PIFS PACRES Private  
Sector Climate  
Finance Officer



**Ms. Karen Komiti,**  
USP PACRES RCO  
Samoa; and



**Mr. Lindsay Sau,**  
PACRES Project Officer  
Papua New Guinea

► For further information on PACRES please contact [pacresinfo@sprep.org](mailto:pacresinfo@sprep.org)



Students at Nasau Youth Training Centre in Sigatoka.

## PACRES supports scaling up of TVET in the Pacific

PACRES continues to support scaling up the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector in the Pacific by strengthening the delivery of the Resilience Qualification by the TVET institutions. One of the approaches employed is the provision of tools and equipment to institutions offering these qualifications. This includes computers, GPS and soil sampling kits by way of examples.

To date, PACRES has completed the groundwork to provide these tools and equipment to the Fiji Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoY) and is awaiting the approval of a Letter of Agreement between SPC and the MoY.

Under the guidance of the Fiji Higher Education Commission, the MoY is set to deliver the existing Resilience Qualification Level 1 this year in two of its campuses: (1) Valelevu National Youth Training Centre, Suva and the (2) Naleba Youth Training Centre, Labasa.

The immediate beneficiaries of this intervention are the 30 youths currently enrolled by the MoY for the Certificate Level 1.

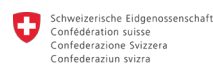
The access to appropriate training tools and equipment will give students more hands-on training whilst acquiring employable skills required in the workplace. For example, the use of the soil salinity test kits, GPS and computers will help students to translate the theoretical lessons and interpret data gathered from the kits to prepare reports using the appropriate tools and/or equipment.

Collaboration on similar activities is underway in other countries in the Pacific.

This activity builds on the efforts carried out by the EU PacTVET project in 2020.



To date, PACRES has completed the groundwork for providing these tools and equipment to the Fiji Ministry of Youth and Sports



Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA



Virtual and face-to-face (Suva, Fiji) participants at the PACRES gender and human rights workshop.



## About PACRES

Welcome to the first PACRES newsletter for 2021!

Despite the continuing restrictions imposed by responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to implement PACRES activities through a variety of strategies.

We now have a good local PACRES presence in all five countries where we are scaling up adaptation pilots, including:

- in Papua New Guinea where we have our SPREP Project Officer Lindsay Sau and USP Research and Community Officer (RCO) Sarah Griffin working closely with the Adaptation team at the Climate Change Development Authority;
- in Samoa the SPREP Project Management Unit is working directly with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and USP's RCO Karen Komiti;
- in Solomon Islands Chris Teva and John Walenenea our Project Officer and RCO are working with the team in the Department of Climate Change;
- in Timor Leste we have Hipolito Amaral Ximenes who has been engaged by the National Directorate

for Climate Change under a Partnership Agreement with SPREP to provide project coordination and our RCO Leonardo Rosa ; and

- in Vanuatu we have Project Officer Jackson Tambe, RCO Morris Harrison and recently appointed Forestry Officer Ioan Viji Vutilolo working with the Departments of Climate Change and Forestry.

This team of local experts provides the eyes and ears for implementing partners as they can quickly identify project opportunities and challenges until such time Fiji, Samoa and New Caledonia-based project teams can join them on the ground again for country visits.

We are also looking to engage local consultants where possible to undertake work, or international consultants who have counterparts on the ground to work with local stakeholders.

Virtual meetings have provided a great opportunity to work more closely with a broader range of stakeholders across the region.

However, we are conscious of the risk of 'virtual meeting fatigue' and so will be strategic and considerate in the way we schedule virtual events in 2021.

Regional PACRES highlights since our first PACRES newsletter include:

- SPREP and the Swiss Confederation signed an Agreement in the amount of USD100,000 (€85,441) to build capacity on climate change related migration, displacement and planned relocation for resilient development;
- SPREP also signed an Agreement with the Principality of Monaco in the amount of €360,000, the first €90,000 of which is co-financing with PACRES adding a new marine component to the scaling up of climate change adaptation pilots, including ecosystem-based adaptation solutions.
- Completed elaboration of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) in line with the Paris Agreement and review of the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) governance arrangements called for by Pacific Forum Leaders. This will enable a better understanding of the FRDP and its complementarity with the Paris Agreement and other relevant global frameworks.

- On-line advocacy of the FRDP and PRP through online consultation convened in Kiribati with the aim of replicating in other countries.
- Successful PRP webinars held on the Pacific Regional Federation of Resilience Professionals and Pacific stories of displacement & human mobility.
- Revitalised the PRP webpage and reactivated the PRP Facebook page. Web: <http://www.resilientpacific.org/pacific-resilience-partnership/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PacificResiliencePartnership>
- Risk Financing TWG developing database on how the pandemic has shaped risk financing.
- Human Mobility TWG completed internal mapping of member services and capabilities and is identifying gaps and opportunities for further synergies.
- TWG after Risk Governance – Pacific Regional Response Mapping Research exercise completed and mapping of climate change, DRM and health emergencies legislation and their preparedness to respond to different types of hazards with an added focus on pandemics and outbreaks underway.
- Localisation TWG - research/mapping exercise on humanitarian localisation activities conducted by partners at the national level across the region through an online survey.
- FRDP M&E Consultancy produced four case-studies (Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, Kiribati) measuring and monitoring national resilience and regional scorecards and indicators.
- USP convened Gender and Human Rights Workshop, 25-27 November with 43 participants (27 female and 16 male). Some participants met face-to-face in Suva while others joined virtually.
- A TVET Resilience qualifications workshop was held in Nadi, at which experts recommended a Nested or

Articulated Qualification for existing Levels 1-4 in which levels 1-2 and 3-4 would be collapsed but with exit points for students who opt to exit in L1 and L3 respectively. The pathway of progression will continue in Levels 5-6.

- USP delivered a Climate Finance Course. 14 students (7 female and 7 male) enrolled and 9 passed the course.
- Mapping of private sector engagement in climate change in Tonga completed
- Convened the virtual Micronesia sub-regional private sector climate finance workshop with the Government of Nauru as the co-host in October 2020 to identify opportunities for collaboration at the national level in Micronesian countries.

#### In Papua New Guinea:

- Consultancy signed to build resilience to climate change and natural disasters in Karama and nearby communities in the Malalau District with work to commence in 2021.
- Call for SPC grants closed.

#### In Samoa:

- SPREP signed a Partnership Agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to enhance water security in Matautuu villages;
- Consultancy to undertake ESRAM-style assessment (see related story) around the community of Saleaula commenced. Field work and first community consultations conducted.

#### In Solomon Islands:

- the SPREP PACRES Project Officer commenced.
- Consultancy to extend the boundaries of the Barana Nature and Heritage Park was completed.

- Consultancies to develop Honiara Botanical Gardens Landscape Master Plan and Honiara CBD Greening and Landscaping Master Plan commenced.
- Consultancy to review Solomon Islands' NDC and National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) completed.
- SPC grantees have been selected.

#### In Timor-Leste

- SPREP signed a Partnership Agreement with National Directorate for Climate Change (NDCC) to provide project coordination services and undertake Integrated Vulnerability Assessments (IVAs).
- Four Integrated Vulnerability Assessments undertaken by NDCC (see related story) and assessment of options to enhance water security in the communities of Larisula and Haupu commenced.

#### In Vanuatu

- Nursery Officer commenced to provide technical support to extend and manage the Tagabe Forestry Nursery for PACRES
- Consultancy to review Vanuatu's Department of Climate Change organisational structure and inter-sectoral arrangements signed but not yet commenced.
- The call for grants proposal has been approved by the National Advisory Board.

We also continue to work closely with our funding partners and take the opportunity to welcome Noa Sainz Lopez as our new PACRES programme manager at the EU Delegation in Fiji. In January SPREP and USP participated in the second Intra-ACP GCCA+ Programme Steering Committee Meeting where we had the opportunity to highlight PACRES support to review Solomon Islands' NDC.

2021 will be a crucial year in the implementation of PACRES activities and the PACRES team looks forward to continue working collaboratively with our partners throughout the year - ongoing COVID-19 constraints notwithstanding!

*"Climate-driven displacement isn't some distant doomsday proposition. It is happening right now. In response, we have to change and adapt as quickly as the climate. To do that, we need the support of the rest of the world. And as the Chair for the Platform of Disaster Displacement Fiji looks forwards to leading alongside our development partners and organisations, like the Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security, not by talking – but by doing"*

The Prime Minister of Fiji on Internal Displacement

## Pacific Regional Consultation on Internal Displacement 2021



The Prime Minister of Fiji, Hon. Josia Voreqe Bainimarama opening remarks to the Pacific regional consultation with the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

Photo Courtesy of PIFS

## Pacific Resilience Partnership

This newsletter focuses on the PRP Human Mobility Technical Working Group co-chaired by Ms Sabira Coelho, Programme Manager (Migration and Climate Change) of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Fiji and Gabor Sasvari, Program Coordinator, Sectoral and Global Programmes Department of GIZ Fiji. The purpose of the TWG is to strengthen regional collaboration, promote best practices and the exchange of lessons learned in terms of human mobility linked to the effects of climate change and disasters in the Pacific.

It was established in 2019 following the 2019 Pacific Resilience Meeting (PRM) responding to the PRM outcome calling for all partners to address issues of climate-driven and disaster-induced displacement and planned relocation. It builds on the 2008 Niue Declaration and the Nansen Initiative Pacific Regional Consultation (2013) with the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management 2017-2030 (FRDP) providing broad policy guidelines on issues of climate change and disaster induced human mobility.

Currently the TWG on Human Mobility has a membership of more than thirty Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and development partners.

On February 11th, 2021 the TWG in partnership with the High-Level Panel (HLP) on Internal Displacement organized a Pacific regional consultation on the issue of internal displacement. It was a platform for government officials to present on country-specific best practices, lessons learnt and challenges related to internal displacement.

It also provided an opportunity for government officials to dialogue with the HLP members on how such consultation would inform the outcome report including recommendations and overall work of the UN SG HLP. The consultation itself was a demonstration of strong collaboration through the PRP and in particular through the TWG focusing on a specific aspect of resilience. It also showcased a practical and tangible example of the potential value-add of the PRP TWG and in this particular case serving as a regional expert platform with the capacity to support governments and partners on the issue of internal displacement including through enabling

our national governments to dialogue directly with this global mechanism.

In the lead up to the Pacific regional consultation, the TWG on Human Mobility organized 2 webinars with the first webinar highlighting stories of resilience, recovery and solutions in the context of internal displacement. It brought to the fore the reality and complexity of disaster and climate related displacement in Titiana (Solomon Islands), Vunidogoloa (Fiji), Ping Lap atoll (Federated States of Micronesia), and the Bikini atoll (Republic of the Marshall Islands). The second webinar heard perspectives from non-government organisations, academia and UN agencies highlighting the need to address data and knowledge gaps on internal displacement in the Pacific. It unpacked some of these issues, gaps and challenges while also exploring some of the best practices to address these data and knowledge gaps.



## PACRES supports Integrated Vulnerability Assessments in Timor-Leste

In December 2020, PACRES funded Integrated Vulnerability Assessments (IVAs) in four rural communities in Timor-Leste. Conducted by the National Directorate of Climate Change (NDCC), IVAs are an important planning tool to identify priority adaptation options in Timor-Leste.

IVAs use the methodology developed by the University of the South Pacific in 2017 under the EU's USP GCCA Project, known as the Pacific Island Integrated Vulnerability Assessment Framework. The framework identifies indicators that measure exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity to climate change and is used in Timor-Leste to gather information on climate change at the village level through community observations and experience. The assessment helps IVA facilitators and the community determine which livelihood assets are most vulnerable to climate

change in order to identify focus areas for adaptation and priorities for action.

The IVAs were conducted in the communities of Uacala and Samalari in Baucau Municipality and Iliomar I and Lore I in Lautem Municipality. They were led by NDCC Director Augusto Pinto and took place over two-days in each community, with four sessions comprising awareness raising on the impacts and effects of climate change, participatory focus groups after which the facilitators developed a results matrix based on the discussion, presentation of the matrix followed by a Q & A session, and GIS data collection.

In his presentation to the community of Iliomar I, Director Pinto explained the results of the IVA analysis compiled during focus group discussion, which identified food security as the most vulnerable livelihood.

The results of the IVAs will be used to inform government and donors on priority areas for action in each community, with further IVAs to be conducted by the NDCC with PACRES funding in 2021.

“ The assessment helps IVA facilitators and the community determine which livelihood assets are most vulnerable to climate change in order to identify focus areas for adaptation and priorities for action. ”



## PACRES in Vanuatu

In this edition of the PACRES newsletter, we explore in more detail, PACRES activities in Vanuatu. In future newsletters we will look at PACRES’s work in Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste, where PACRES is scaling up adaptation pilots, including Ecosystem-based Approaches.

PACRES activities in Vanuatu are focused around the national capital of Port Vila and the Tagabe River watershed. In Vanuatu PACRES is being delivered jointly by SPREP, SPC and USP in partnership with Vanuatu’s Department of Climate Change (DoCC) within the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology, Geo-Hazards, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management. PACRES is also working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity.

On the ground in Port Vila the PACRES team comprises Project Officer Jackson Tambe, the USP RCO Officer Morris Harrison and Ioan Viji Vutilolo who was recently engaged as Forestry Officer to oversee nursery expansion and planting of seedlings. Our team works under the guidance of Vanuatu’s Climate Change

Director, Mike Waiwai.

### Scaling up adaptation pilots and Ecosystem-based Approaches

During the design mission to Port Vila in July 2019 DoCC and SPREP agreed PACRES will build on and extend activities from the PEBACC and International Waters Ridge to Reef (R2R) projects. This includes:

- Building on Tagabe riverbank stabilisation and riparian zone rehabilitation initiated by PEBACC and R2R
- Nursery expansion, planting and reforestation in the Tagabe watershed and selected urban and peri-urban areas of Port Vila and protection of coastal vegetation at the Tagabe River mouth and Fatumaru Bay
- Development of the Tagabe River Integrated Catchment Management Plan (ICMP) and an Urban Greening Master Plan for Port Vila; and

- Implementation of at least one priority activity under the ICMP

Development of the Tagabe River ICMP is underway and a Request for Tender will shortly be issued for expansion of the Tagabe Forestry Nursery to facilitate planting seedlings and wildlings, including coastal species in 2021 and 2022. Forestry Officer Ioan is also planning for seedling collection and propagation once the nursery expansion is completed and after that engagement of communities and other groups in planting out the seedlings.

The PEBACC and R2R projects initiated the revegetation of the riparian zones along the Tagabe river to stabilise the riverbank, providing shade to the river and safeguarding important aquatic habitats and reduce erosion. PACRES will scale up previous initiatives and implement innovative nature-based approaches for riverbank stabilisation and ecosystem-based



adaptation approaches for riparian zone restoration.

The SPREP component of PACRES is also supporting a review of DoCC's organisational structure and inter-sectoral arrangements to support ecosystem-based climate change adaptation solutions and aims to provide training and strengthen coordination between Government, non-state actors and the private sector in ecosystem-based adaptation planning and implementation.

### PACRES Awareness Raising Sessions

USP's RCO, Morris organised a series of awareness raising sessions across the PACRES sites in Vanuatu between August and October 2020 in collaboration with PACRES Project Officer Jackson, the R2R Project Officer, Ericksen Packett, DoCC and the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation. The awareness sessions were carried out through the Tagabe River Management Committee, in an effort to continue the Locally Managed Climate Change Adaptation network that the Committee supports. A total of 106 people, 69 females and 37 males, from 10 communities participated in the awareness sessions. The communities were from Tagabe, Efate, Blacksands, Ohlen and Ifira regions.

In addition to introducing PACRES, these sessions aimed to raise general climate change adaptation awareness across the participating communities. Topics included water resource management, ecosystem services, sustainability, enhanced livelihoods through good ecosystem management practices, river, riparian zone and coastal management and waste management. During the sessions, an effort was made to identify potential change agents at the various awareness sites, to proactively drive climate change adaptation and disaster risk management networks to promote a community of best practices across the PACRES sites. The participating communities harmoniously welcomed PACRES and all it aims to accomplish over the next two years. Participants were particularly enthusiastic about PACRES's

capacity development activities.

### Capacity Needs Assessments across PACRES sites

Focused Group Discussions have also been conducted across PACRES sites to identify capacity needs associated with climate change adaptation and disaster risk management. Morris facilitated these capacity needs assessments in Whitesands, Blacksand Community, Port Vila, Pango, Southwest Efate, Blacksands Bridge Side River Community, Destination Community, Tagabe and Erromango Benuar Community. A total of 62 participants, 28 females and 34 males, participated in the FGDs between August and October 2020. Discussion included urban greening, particularly backyard gardening. Key capacity needs associated with backyard gardening were identified to be management, book-keeping and lack of knowledge and technical expertise associated with composting, tree planting, nursery management and nutrition. Follow up short training sessions are planned for these communities in 2021 to address some of the identified capacity needs.

### Grants Facility

SPREP and USP activities described above are also complemented by SPC's Grants Facility, the focus of which was approved by Vanuatu's National Advisory Board in December 2020. The call for grants was published in early 2021 and focuses on scaling up adaptation projects on urban food security in Port Vila. This includes:

- home gardening (like the ones identified in the PEBACC project),
- food security, including but not limited to protecting and promoting resilient livelihoods to ensure adequate food availability,
- activities to improve utilization with a focus on nutritional status, enhancing stability through vulnerability and risk reduction and management,
- climate smart agriculture; and

- cooking fuel efficiency.

The Vanuatu Climate Action Network held a workshop on 8 February to help its members answer the call for proposals.

## Tonga concludes mapping of private sector activities

Tonga completed its mapping of private sector activities related to climate change in October 2020. With support of the Government of Tonga and the Chamber of Commerce, the mapping was focused on identifying barriers constraining business capacity to manage climate risks and development of strategies to strengthen the capacity of Tonga businesses to manage climate risks. Bilateral consultations with key stakeholders in Nukualofa and a stakeholder workshop were part of the mapping exercise. Close to 40 participants from all sectors in Tonga participated in the national consultations. A private sector options paper was endorsed by the Government of Tonga and the Chamber of Commerce which will provide strategic guidance for private sector development in managing climate risks.

Similar mapping reports for Cook Islands and Solomon Islands have been finalised and published and can be found here:

<https://www.forumsec.org/regional-reports-and-frameworks-of-the-pacific-islands-forum/>

Dr Aleni Fepuleai sampling the seawater at Saleaula



## Ecosystem and Socio-Economic Resilience Analysis and Mapping around the community of Saleaula in Samoa

PACRES has funded the first Ecosystem and Socio-Economic Resilience Analysis and Mapping (ESRAM) style assessment in Samoa around the community of Saleaula in Savaii.

The assessment has been adapted from the ESRAM methodology developed under the German funded Pacific Ecosystem-Based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) Project implemented by SPREP in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

An ESRAM assessment can include:

- identification of ecosystems, ecosystem services, community dependencies and existing threats;
- identification of socio-economic and governance factors;
- a current state analysis of ecosystems, trends and drivers of change;

- ecosystem service valuations;
- climate change vulnerability assessment; and
- recommendations for EbA options.

The area around Saleaula was chosen for the assessment by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) of the Government of Samoa in mid 2020. The area includes a sand spit peninsula that provides protection from storm surge but also acts as a barrier to the free flow of water in and out of the bay.

The assessment was conducted by PACRES consultant Dr Aleni Fepuleai from 17-19 November 2020 and following the assessment, a community consultation was held on 20 November to discuss results of the assessment. It was opened by the MNRE Assistant Chief Executive Officer for the Climate Change and GEF Division, Ms Anne Rasmussen, and attracted 74 participants including the village council, the local women and girls group and youth of Saleaula.

Participants were divided into three groups to discuss how they felt about the sand spit peninsula, the flow from the nearby Salei'a River and what can be improved environmentally. Knowledge sharing was productive and successful with positive feedback from the community.

Results of Dr Fepuleai's findings will be reported back to the Sale'aula community shortly after water testing by the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa. The findings also will inform us about the impact of climate change, environmental variation and geomorphological/geological activities in this part of Savaii.

After a final report by Dr Fepuleai, MNRE and SPREP will consider which of the recommended options will be funded by PACRES.