

# PROJECT BRIEF



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique

## Institutional strengthening in Pacific Island countries to adapt to climate change (ISACC)



*Gender and Climate Change Regional Training, Nadi, Fiji*

### KEY INFORMATION

**Key implementing agencies:** Pacific Community (SPC) in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)

**Participating countries:** Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

**Budget:** US \$5 million

**Project period:** September 2015 – September 2020

**Key focus areas:** Climate change adaptation, climate finance, policy development, capacity building/training, and project development



Coastal protection groynes, Nuku'alofa, Tonga

## Background

Climate change threatens the livelihoods, security and well-being of Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) and presents challenges to the ability of governments to adapt and respond effectively. It creates pressure on natural environments and people's living conditions, which in turn affects key sectors that national economies and livelihoods depend on, such as agriculture, fisheries, water, health and tourism.

Regionally, there is a call for urgent action to combat the interrelated impacts of climate change and disasters to ensure the viability of Pacific Island communities, and in some cases their survival, particularly on low-lying atolls. Recognising the overlap between the effects of climate change and disasters, and the limited resources available to support countries to adapt and respond, the region is developing a joint regional framework on climate change and disaster risks. The goal of the framework is to strengthen the resilience of Pacific Island communities to the impacts of both slow and sudden onset of natural hazards by developing more effective and integrated ways to address climate and disaster risks, within the context of sustainable development. At the national level, some countries have made progress through the development of Joint National Action Plans (JNAPs) on climate change and disaster risk management, and have merged institutional arrangements for their management. As a result, pilot programmes, such as whole-of-island approaches in Kiribati and Solomon Islands, have established national coordination mechanisms to manage, implement, monitor and evaluate multi-sector interventions. These responses support national action on climate change.

## Project approach

The actions being taken by countries to respond to the impacts of climate change are placing additional pressures on the effectiveness of their existing governance structures and plans for reform. New international climate change finance is being made available to developing countries and it is expected that the requirements for accessing this funding support will result in increased complexity for Pacific Island governments.

While the region has benefitted from a number of climate change programmes, there is growing recognition that national institutions and human capacity need to be further strengthened. High-level policies and strategies may provide the necessary mandates, direction and frameworks for the development and implementation of information management systems, partnerships, projects and procedures, both within and across agencies and jurisdictions. However, these policies and strategies need to be supported by suitable institutional arrangements and appropriate capacity.

## Project goal

The goal of the regional project is to strengthen the national institutional capacity of countries to effectively plan for, coordinate and respond to the adverse impacts of climate change. The project will build on multi-sector, whole-of-island approaches that have been implemented successfully by regional climate change projects and that continue to be sustained by a range of partners through pooling of resources and expertise.

## Key result areas

- i. Integrated institutional frameworks and national capacity strengthened to support multi-sectoral approaches to climate change and disaster risks.
- ii. Access to new climate change finance enhanced through improved capacity, systems and tools.
- iii. Regional cooperation and coordination strengthened through augmented national capacity, delivered through shared learning, to support national responses to climate and disaster risks.



Adaptation planning with communities, Choiseul Province, Solomon Islands

## For further information

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