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# Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States Individual Country Evaluation Report- Cook Islands

PREPARED FOR  
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## REPORT PREPARED BY

PACIFIC RESEARCH AND EVALUATION ASSOCIATES

Martin Pritchard [martin@prea.com.au](mailto:martin@prea.com.au)  
Damien Sweeney [damien@prea.com.au](mailto:damien@prea.com.au)  
[www.prea.com.au](http://www.prea.com.au)



**PREA**  
PACIFIC RESEARCH & EVALUATION ASSOCIATES

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This is one of nine individual country evaluation summary reports produced as part of the Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States post-project evaluation<sup>1</sup>.

The Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) Project is a European Union (EU) funded initiative to assist nine smaller Pacific Island states (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu ) to adapt to climate change. The project was implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC), with an implementation period from July 2011 through to November 2016<sup>2</sup>.

The overall objective of the project was to support the governments of nine small island states of the Pacific in their efforts to tackle the adverse effects of climate change.

The GCCA: PSIS project consisted of on-ground climate change adaptation activities in specific sectors – coastal protection, marine resources, health, agriculture, and freshwater; supported by mainstreaming of climate change into national and sectoral policies, plans, budgets and procedures. The project also provided technical assistance, capacity building and supported regional collaboration.

The four components and key result areas (KRA) of the project were:

1. Climate change mainstreamed into national and/or sector response strategies.
2. Well-articulated sectoral adaptation strategies that address budget support criteria.
3. National climate change adaptation projects implemented.
4. Streamlined technical assistance that supports national adaptation responses delivered by regional organisations in a collaborative manner.

The individual country evaluation report presented below is guided by responses to the key evaluation criteria provided in the original terms of reference:

- Relevance & EU Coherence
- Effectiveness
- Impact
- Efficiency
- Sustainability
- Cross-Cutting themes of gender and the environment
- Visibility

The report also provide a summary of best practices and any specific recommendations for future action or improvement.

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<sup>1</sup> The evaluation report is presented as a full report containing all sections, as well as separate executive summary, individual country evaluation summaries and case studies.

<sup>2</sup> The project was granted a one-year extension.

## 2. COOK ISLANDS EVALUATION REPORT

### Sector for Climate Change Adaptation Project

Marine resources

#### Project

##### **Environmental Monitoring to Enhance Community Livelihoods and Build Resilience to Climate Change in Low-Lying Atolls of the Cook Islands**

The project built capacity within the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) to better manage the pearl industry and monitor the water quality of Manihiki Lagoon. A refurbished water quality monitoring buoy was deployed in the Manihiki Lagoon.

Three MMR laboratories were refurbished with new water quality testing equipment and staff have been trained in water quality testing and analysis as well as maintenance of the buoy. A new marine biologist based at Manihiki conducted water quality monitoring and worked with pearl farmers to improve their farming practices.

The project funded the purchase of a new boat and water quality monitoring probe for Penryhn. marine survey assessments were undertaken in four northern islands to assess marine stocks including capacity building of MMR staff in the respective islands, Rarotonga MMR staff and selected community stakeholders (Pukapuka Pure (ra'ui wardens, 2 Penryhn islanders)). Total of four notice boards for Manihiki and Pukapuka.

#### Implementing Entity

The MMR is responsible for project design, management and implementation of the climate change adaptation project. Overall coordination of the GCCA: PSIS project activities in the Cook Islands was provided at the national level by the Office of the Prime Minister through the Climate Change Cook Islands (CCCI) Office. The Cook Islands Climate Change Platform involving MMR, CCCI, Ministry of Health and NGOs was also used to inform stakeholders and engage them in implementation where appropriate. This implementation arrangement was effective.

#### Relevance & EU Coherence

The GCCA project is highly relevant to national priorities as documented in numerous plans and policies. The project sector focus (marine resources) and overall objective 'to build resilience to climate change in the Cook Islands' is aligned to strategic area 4 of the existing Joint National Action Plan (JNAP) for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation 2011-2015 which focuses on strengthening economic development and increasing resilience to climate change. The project is also aligned to Priority Area 5, Strategy 4 of the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) for 2011–2015. Additionally, the demonstration project is closely linked to the adaptation needs and priorities documented in the Cook Islands second national communication to the UNFCCC as they relate to monitoring and managing marine resources and water quality. The National Environment Strategic Action Framework 2005–2009 (NESAF) third goal also refers to resilience to climate change variability.

Several other climate change projects were being implemented in Cook Islands during the planning and implementation stages of the GCCA project. These projects include:

- Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) – Focused on mainstreaming climate change in national and sector policies and implementing measures to climate proof key infrastructure.
- Strengthening Resilience of our Islands and Communities to Climate Change (SRIC-CC).
- University of the South Pacific-European Union Global Climate Change Alliance project (USP-EU GCCA). Focused on water and food security.

Potential overlap and duplication between PACC and GCCA mainstreaming and demonstration pilot activities was avoided as both projects focused on different sectors. Involvement of SRIC-CC in both projects helped identify and realise collaboration opportunities.

Many outer island communities are semi-dependant on local marine resources (including fishing and the pearl industry) for their subsistence, food security and economic development. The project responded to address a number of short and long-term causes (some climate change related) that are responsible for the decline in the Cook Islands pearl industry based in the outer islands.

## Effectiveness

### Most effective in building capacity within MMR to monitor water quality in Manihiki lagoon

Overall the project was found to be effective with the project purpose being achieved and nearly all components of the key results areas delivered as documented in the revised logframe (February 2015).

Expected result	Indicator	Indicator achieved
<b>Overall Objective:</b> To build resilience to climate change in the Cook Islands	Climate change issues are included in at least four island community development plans by December 2014	Not achieved: Island community development plans were not revised to incorporate climate change issues. Plans are not scheduled for revision until 2017. A report titled 'Using local knowledge to understand climate variability in the Cook Islands' produced by this project will be used to inform future revisions.
<b>Purpose:</b> To strengthen environmental monitoring and its relevance to the communities of the northern atolls	At least one northern atoll community is engaged in environmental monitoring by December 2014	Achieved: Manihiki atoll community (pearl farmers and school) participating in water quality monitoring (water clarity, chlorophyll levels). Water quality test kits were distributed to support monitoring. Monitoring is voluntary. (Q2 2015) Marine Biologist on Manihiki conducted weekly water quality analysis and reporting.

	At least two communities in the northern atolls are publicly displaying the results of the environmental monitoring by June 2015	Achieved: Community notice boards in Manihiki and Pukapuka display water quality monitoring results and climate change information in English and Cook Islands Maori.
	At least one school in the northern atolls is involved in monitoring water quality by June 2015	Exceeded: Two schools in Manihiki participating in water quality monitoring through an amended curriculum. Local Penryhn community (youth) engaged in marine survey work.
<b>Key Result Area 1:</b> Awareness and understanding of the results from environmental monitoring of the lagoon system advanced.	One new effective communication tool prepared collaboratively and used widely in the communities by June 2015	Exceeded: Mobile phones used to communicate critical information and alerts to pearl farmers. Notice boards constructed on Manihiki and Pukapuka to share water quality monitoring data.
	At least 10 pearl farmers are trained in water quality monitoring and climate change resilience building activities by June 2015.	Partial: Six pearl farmers were trained. Target not met as there was a selection criterion that required trainees to be compliant with a number of conditions (reporting to MMR, adhering to quotas, compliant with Lagoon Management Plan). Not enough farmers met these compliance requirements to qualify for training.
<b>Key Result Area 2:</b> Existing environmental monitoring system strengthened especially in Manihiki	One fully operational environmental monitoring system in place in Manihiki by June 2014	Partial: Refurbished monitoring buoy deployed June 2014, however, there were technical issues. Buoy re-deployed in September 2014 and was operational until December 2014 when it stopped transmitting data. Buoy re-deployed after repairs and recalibration in December 2015, however the weather component (Vaisala) broke off and MMR await assistance from SPC-GSD Technician. The buoy also stopped transmitting data on 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2016. The SPC-GSD

		website <sup>3</sup> displaying monitoring data from the buoy is unreliable and currently not functioning.
	MMR laboratory upgraded so that all nutrient analysis will be analysed in-house by June 2015	Exceeded: Three laboratories (Manihiki and Rarotonga x 2) upgraded with new equipment (including co-financing a new auto nutrient analyser). 2 staff trained and carrying out sample analysis.
	At least four people in Manihiki are trained in maintenance of monitoring equipment by July 2014	Achieved: Three MMR staff and one trainee trained in maintenance of monitoring buoy, disassembly and cleaning of sensors. Staff have used skills to remove sensors for recalibration.
	At least two MMR personnel trained in water quality monitoring and data analysis by June 2015	Achieved: Two MMR staff trained in water quality monitoring, including the use of new nutrient analyser.
	At least one publication about project activities by December 2014	Exceeded: Articles in OPM Climate Change monthly Newsletter summarise project activities, Lessons Learnt Meeting in YAP State where lessons learnt videos were shared. Other relevant publications also produced.
<b>Key Result Area 3:</b> Feasibility study of appropriate marine-resource related livelihood activities conducted in Penryhn, Rakahanga, Pukapuka and Manihiki in light of changing climate	Feasibility study completed on marine resources management in the four northern atolls by September 2015	Achieved: Marine resource feasibility study conducted in Penryhn, Rakahanga, Pukapuka and Manihiki. Results being used in the planning of SRIC-CC projects in the outer islands. This included support to marine resource surveys for Mauke and Mitiaro in the Southern Cook Islands. Reports for each survey were published.
<b>Key Result Area 4:</b>	Revised compliance structure completed for the pearl	Achieved: Revised Manihiki Pearl Lagoon Management Plan approved by Government

<sup>3</sup> SOPAC website displaying monitoring buoy data displays a Java error. <http://ict.sopac.org/buoy/main.jsf>. The website was viewed by the evaluator on one occasions after SPC requested SOPAC to investigate the error. The error has since returned and the website does not load.

Community engaged in implementing the pearl farming management plan	management plan by September 2015	in 2016. Revised permitting system and permit forms endorsed by Island Government.
	At least 20 pearl farmers provide input to the review of the pearl management plan	Achieved: Revised Manihiki Pearl Lagoon Management Plan and related documentation reviewed by 20 pearl farmers through consultations. Four meetings held with key stakeholders – Manihiki Island Government, pearl farmers in Tukao and Tauhunu and Manihiki Pearl Farmers Association. One pearl farmer reported there was still need for more dialogue about the Plan and more public meetings in Manihiki.

The logframe was modified during the course of implementation to reflect more realistic targets and some re-scoped activities. The only notable modification was the removal of targets and activities relating to the update of the existing Pearl Economic Model. This activity was removed and funds were diverted to other activities. Acceptable justification was provided for the removal of this activity<sup>4</sup>.

The refurbishment of the existing technically sophisticated Sound Ocean Systems Inc. (SOSI) monitoring buoy could have been a cost effective solution to provide real-time water quality monitoring data in Manihiki. However, technical errors (transmitting data), the need for recalibration, issues with a short battery life and unintentional damage (leaks, broken weather sensors) have greatly reduced its effectiveness in providing useful, reliable, timely data. The buoy has only provided data for approximately four months over a two-year period between 2013 and 2015.

The buoy was originally purchased in 2006 through the support of another project. Because the buoy was custom designed, local and regional staff (even SPC-GSD) are not familiar with the maintenance and repair procedures which makes the buoy maintenance dependant on support from the USA manufacturer. Given the past track record, it is unlikely the buoy will continue to function correctly without ongoing intervention and investment.

In mid-2014 SPC had suggested to MMR that it may be wise to abandon further investment in the buoy. However, MMR decided to continue with the existing plan of repair and redeployed the buoy. The challenges (cost, time and technical expertise required) of repairing or replacing parts is made more difficult by SOSI being located in the USA. Overall it is questionable whether sophisticated technology is appropriate for remote locations. With the benefit of hindsight, increased water quality

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<sup>4</sup> Only one person was ever trained in the use of the existing economic model. Some components of the economic model were going to be included in the revised pearl permit application process. Existing interaction between marine biologist and pearl farmers included discussion on business practices and planning which also covered some aspects of the pearl economic model.

monitoring in Manihiki may have been more effectively achieved through weekly water testing conducted in the laboratory or daily testing using a water quality monitoring probe.

A new MMR website which would have increased project visibility was planned, but not delivered due to a shortage of staff with the required skills.

### **Additional Activities beyond the Focus of the Marine Resources Sector**

Tablet training provided for senior citizens in the Southern Island Group was well received. However, there was very limited uptake of tablet use at Telecom centres post-training. An evaluation – conducted 10 months after the training – revealed that many seniors had forgotten how to use the tablets or were fearful of breaking the devices. The Cook Islands Lessons Learnt report indicated that approximately half of those trained continued to use the IT skills learnt at the workshop. Some unexpected benefits from the tablet training include cost savings to one business who now uses email instead of the phone to place orders. Overall, benefits gained were more related to improved communications (with family and friends) with little evidence of improvement in ability to learn about climate change. Fortunately the tablet training was complemented by a presentation on climate change delivered in Maori which helped to partially fulfil the activity objective. Whilst building skills in tablet use to access climate change information has merit, more follow-up training and support will be required to enable seniors to use new technology like tablets to access climate change information.

The tablet training has been expanded to the northern group of islands by the SRIC-CC project in 2015-2016. Communications are much poorer in the northern group (only one scheduled flight every 2 weeks to Manihiki) and here the uptake of the tablet training has been much better.

As part of the tablet training, local knowledge from senior Cook Islanders on observed changes in the local ecosystems has been documented and analysed together with scientific data to determine linkages between observed changes and climate variability. A publication and video has been published.

The project provided funding and technical assistance to support the Cook Islands government make a submission to obtain National Implementing Entity (NIE) status for the Adaptation Fund (AF). Whilst the application is still under consideration by the AF, the process helped build institutional capacity and improve Government financial management processes across a number of areas:

- financial management manual updated
- internal audits now up to date
- procurement guidelines revised
- environment and social safeguard policy and anti-corruption policy developed
- training in Te Tarai Vaka (project management system) facilitated

These improvements will deliver long-term benefits to government effectiveness and efficiency whilst also creating a strong position on which to base future applications to obtain direct budget support or funding through the Green Climate Fund.

A review of climate change mainstreaming into national plans and policies in Cook Islands was conducted in 2013. A subsequent assessment report of budget support readiness indicated that Cook Islands had a medium to low likelihood to qualify for direct budget support. The improvements resulting from NIE accreditation work will likely support a higher rating and likelihood of receiving direct funding in future reviews.



Training in 'Proposal preparation using the Logical Framework Approach (LFA)' was delivered to 43 people (26 women, 17 men) over two training sessions in May 2013 and October 2015. The post-training evaluation indicated that the training was successful in building capacity and motivation of Cook Islands government staff and community based groups to use the LFA to design projects and inform the preparation of proposals. The second workshop was part funded by the SCRIC-CC project and this training also include four days of one-on-one mentoring with participants and other individuals interested in applying the LFA to their project. The mentoring was highly valued by the eleven participants that took up the opportunity. Project design work for initiatives that were worked on during the first week of training were further progressed and design work for new projects was also started.

Overall, the training was highly valued as demonstrated by the following comment from one *Cook Islands workshop participant*.

*"I have attended many workshops/training (national/regional/international) over the years and I have to say, especially given the topic presented, that this ranks as one of the best/most useful trainings (if not the best). The potential for this training to have been dull/boring was high but I found that it was engaging/interactive/well spaced/understandable/interesting. We leave with useful tools that will be used. I only wish that more of my colleagues could have participated. Great job. Thanks to the donors too."*

## Impact

### **Increased economic resilience of pearl farmers in Manihiki through increased ability to reduce the negative impacts of climate variability on their pearl shells**

Increased monitoring of water quality provides pearl farmers with timely water quality information that enables them to take action to respond to changes in water quality. Such action involves altering the depth of pearl shells in the water column or choosing not to work on their shells to reduce stress. Pearl farmers have been trained in climate change adaptation techniques as they relate to pearl farming. They have also been up-skilled in best-practice pearl farm management skills. MMR Pearl Biologist has been instrumental in raising awareness and helping the farmers to relate the science to practical application.

### **More timely water quality monitoring results to pearl farmers and fishermen**

New laboratory equipment installed at three laboratories has sped up the water quality testing and helped reduce the long backlog (up to 3 years behind for Rarotonga and Aitutaki data analysis).

### **Improved government governance**

The Cook Islands government NIE application to AF has advanced it one step closer to being able to directly access new multilateral climate change adaptation funds. Benefits from going through the application process have included increased institutional capacity across a number of areas (audit, procurement, anti-corruption, environment and social safeguard, project management).

## Efficiency

### Time

Nearly all planned project activities were completed within the allotted project timeframe. However, many activities were delayed and not completed as per the timeline in the PDD. Delays in implementation were caused by both external and internal factors. For example, the delays in deploying and having an operational monitoring buoy in Manihiki were caused by technical faults with the buoy, long transport route back to the manufacturer based in the USA for repair and recalibration, shipping delays and the unavailability of the SPC-GSD technician to assist with redeployment. The planned Penryhn marine resources feasibility study was delayed due to a change in shipping schedules. Additionally, a planned consultation in Palmerston did not occur due to people being off-island for the Cook Islands 50th Anniversary Celebrations. In another example, the national project communications plan was delivered one year late.

At the end of the planned implementation period (December 2015), some activities were incomplete. One outstanding activity, the installation of a fume hood in the chemistry laboratory, was completed in Quarter 1 2016.

Planning and implementing activities in outer islands is extremely challenging from a logistical point of view. The evaluation notes that flights and boat transport to the outer islands is infrequent, expensive and often over-booked. Importantly the project reported the status of its planned activities and where significant delays were encountered, the project team responded to address the delays. For example, to respond to transport difficulties of getting to Penryhn to conduct the marine resources feasibility study, the project chartered a flight from Rarotonga to Penryhn (co-financed by SRIC-CC). The evaluation acknowledges that there were delays in task implementation; however, these did not significantly impact on the ability of the project to deliver on most of its key results areas and achieve its purpose.

### Cost

Cook Islands had acquitted 97% of its €500,000 allocation for the on-ground project by March 2016 and all remaining funds are allocated which will result in 100% expenditure by the end of the project. €54,000 was allocated for national coordination and 100% of these funds were acquitted.

The funds available to support the Cook Islands demonstration project was €541,737. This included additional funding requested to support new activities in Penryhn to replicate some of the work in Manihiki, share knowledge and lessons, and conduct pearl oyster spat trials. As of March 2016, the project had spent 100% of its available and budgeted funds which is a positive result.

The cost of transportation and logistics to deliver projects activities on Manihiki was high. Basing the Marine Biologist in Manihiki helped reduce the need for extensive travel to conduct the activities they were responsible for. The project was fortunate to secure some in-kind logistical transport support provided by the NZ Airforce to transport goods and people to and between outer islands.

There was consultation between MMR and SPC-GSD about the decision to repair and use the existing SOSI buoy, however, there was no evidence that a cost-benefit analysis or other tool were used to assess different approaches to improving water quality monitoring in Manihiki. Such an assessment would have been particularly useful for comparing, the up-front and ongoing costs of purchasing a new monitoring buoy or refurbishing and redeploying the existing buoy, versus less technologically sophisticated measures. It is noted that discussions between MMR and SPC-GSD informed the

decision to refurbish the existing buoy. Whilst it may have been complicated, a model could have been created to determine the benefits of having real-time data supplied to pearl farmers by a water monitoring buoy against the benefits of daily sampling conducted manually by the marine biologist or other staff. The sustainability of the chosen approach could also have been more explicitly considered in the decision making process.

## Staffing

The core national project team consisted of a project manager, a supporting MMR officer to assist with communications and a contracted Marine Biologist (based out of Manihiki). Technical assistance, specifically that provided by SPC-GSD (for the buoy) and Frankfurt School of Finance and Management (NIE accreditation for AF) were also notable resources allocated to the project.

Resourcing allocated was sufficient to deliver the project. The presence of the Marine Biologist in Manihiki and the training of staff in outer islands to assist with the current and future marine resource surveys provided efficiencies to the project by reducing the need for frequent transport between Rarotonga and Manihiki.

Overall the evaluation finds the project achieved an acceptable positive result in terms of its efficiency considering, time, financial investment and staffing.

## Sustainability

With the exception of receiving real time water quality data from the monitoring buoy, the outcomes of the project are highly likely to continue in the short to medium term (1 to 5 years). Factors contributing to the sustainability of outcomes relate to the benefits delivered by the mainstreaming of staff and activities into national budgets and plans, additional donor funds committed and some private sector engagement. Specific examples of these sustaining factors include:

- capacity has been built to support project activities:
  - basic maintenance of monitoring buoy (instrument cleaning and disassembly)
  - water quality monitoring
  - marine resource surveying
  - proposal preparation to obtain additional donor funding
  - funding support for Project Manager to do AUT project management course to finish in 2017
  - funding support for the MMR Information Officer to do an e-learning course on Digital Media
- project staff (project manager, national coordinator, Marine Biologist) will continue employment/contracts through SRIC-CC and Ridge to Reef project funding with a plan to absorb the Marine Biologist into MMR's future core budget or a co-financing arrangement with the Cook Islands Pearl Authority
- Laboratory Manager employed by SRIC-CC to ensure MMR laboratories are run effectively
- Future funding to support project activities may come from other sources:
  - Climate Early Warning Systems Programme (SPREP)
  - Ridge to Reef
  - SRIC-CC (senior citizen IT training in the northern island group – already ongoing in 2016)
- A cost recovery model to fund the pearl research farm in Manihiki has also been proposed which if implemented stands a high degree of likelihood of being successful

Whilst it was documented that the monitoring buoy maintenance costs and Manihiki Lagoon Pearl Management Plan implementation will be incorporated into MMR's business plan and budget, there is no evidence to indicate that MMR will have sufficient budget to cover the monitoring buoy maintenance costs in either the short or medium term. There is a high likelihood the existing buoy will be abandoned due to ongoing technical issues and high maintenance costs. Simpler more robust buoys or manual water testing probes may prove to be both more effective and cost-efficient options.

Overall, project outcomes are highly likely to continue in the short to medium term. The main risks to sustainability are the continuation of the Marine Biologist based in Manihiki and prolonged technical issues with the monitoring buoy.

## Cross-Cutting

### Gender

The project concept note reflects upon life and businesses in small vulnerable atoll communities where everyone in the family / community has a role to play. Either directly or indirectly, men, women, children and elderly were project beneficiaries and also had a role to play in project implementation. There was an even gender representation at the PDD planning meeting, and at other national training activities. Senior citizens were identified as a vulnerable group who are sometimes neglected when planning projects. A Request for Assistance submitted by the Manihiki Island Council in 2013 to address their needs resulted in the project delivering presentations about climate change and IT training in the use of tablet computers. Seniors also contributed their past observations of changes in the local eco-system to inform the 'Using local knowledge to understand climate variability in the Cook Islands' report.

Youth were targeted as beneficiaries in SCUBA training and also actively participated to deliver project outputs (marine resource survey).

### Environment

The project documented a risk management matrix in the PDD that identified different types of risks. Outside of external events (natural disasters) no environmental risks were identified. The low risk nature of project activities and the lack of major capital works meant there were very few environmental risks to identify and manage. GCCA project staff and MMR are engaged in a related follow-up activity funded by NZAID to clean-up the Manihiki lagoon.

Other key project activities also sought to improve the water quality of the Manihiki lagoon through sharing pearl farming best practices. The revised Manihiki Lagoon Pearl Management Plan was endorsed by the Manihiki Island Government (MIG) in February 2016 reinforces these best practices.

## Visibility

The project developed a communications plan in 2014. This should have been created much earlier in the project. However, even without the communications plan in place, the team had been active in sharing news about the project through a number of channels starting from 2012.

The evaluation found evidence of communications tools and knowledge management products that created awareness about the project, visibility of the implementation agency (SPC) and donor (EU). Visibility was created by the insertion of text acknowledgements and logos into all official reports and publications.

Visibility was also given to the project, SPC and the EU through attendance at or presentations given at events:

- [Pacific Climate Change Roundtable](#) (Samoa, 2015)
- SPC GCCA: PSIS Lessons Learnt Workshop (Yap State, FSM, 2015)
- Manihiki Lagoon Schools Science Fair 2015

Videos were also used to create visibility:

- [Adapting to Climate Change in the Cook Islands: The Human Health Dimension<sup>5</sup>](#)
- [Effectively managing marine resources in remote communities in the Cook Islands<sup>6</sup>](#)  
Screened at regional meetings and The Pacific Way
- [A lifetime of change: Marine fisheries<sup>7</sup>](#)

Other products created include:

- Cook Islands project fact sheet
- Cook Island News articles
- Climate Change Cook Islands newsletters
- Content for SPREP's Climate Change Matters newsletter
- Project banners

The project had planned to include the project on the MMR website, however, capacity constraints within the IT department delayed this task to such an extent that a contingency measure of promoting the project on the MMR Facebook page was implemented instead.

A national lessons learnt workshop (February 2016) was held to enable the project team and local partners to identify and document lessons learnt. A regional workshop (September 2015) involving all SPC GGCA: PSIS project teams and other development partners provided a forum to share national and regional lessons.

Overall, there was sufficient visibility about the project and its support for implementation from SPC and funding from the EU.

## Best Practice and Recommendations

### Best Practice

1. Locate technical assistance staff in outer islands.
2. Project activities deliberately targeted vulnerable or often excluded groups (seniors and youth).

### Recommendations

1. Technology solutions deployed in remote outer islands must be proven, robust and require minimal maintenance.

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<sup>5</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOdAAd3T\\_CY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOdAAd3T_CY)

<sup>6</sup> <https://goo.gl/Prastx>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RejAyW2Ewmk>