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Media release

Enhancing islanders' skills to access climate funding

10 March 2015



Suva- The first in a phase 2 series of national training sessions on how to design project proposals is being held in Tuvalu this week.

Recognising that the human dimension of climate change impacts is critical, this training is equipping stakeholders in Tuvalu, a low-lying nation of atolls, with the skills to design project proposals so that they can access funds for building resilience in key sectors such as

freshwater, food security and coastal protection.

In the six months after the first round of training was conducted (2013-2014) 54 funding proposals were submitted by the participants, valued in excess of USD 89 million.

The training involves 21 persons from government agencies and NGOs. Seven of the participants are planners from outer islands in Tuvalu, many of whom travelled by boat for many hours and days to get to Funafuti for the training.

"I have been a planner for the past 11 years and most of the problems I have had in submitting proposals are because I have missed out steps of the design process. The training has been very helpful and has shown me the necessary steps to go through to ensure I cover all the bases" the Kaupule planner for Nanumaga, Ms Taimoe Mika, said.

“Nanumaga is a small island with 463 people, 50 km and one day’s travel from Funafuti and one of the major issues we face is transportation, which is very expensive and unreliable. During this training we are working on a proposal to improve transportation to the outer islands” Ms Mika added.

Civil society organisations also participated in the training. “In the past we have not always been successful in getting our proposals funded” said the representative for the Tuvalu Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (TANGO), Ms Fa’atamalii Bruce.

“This training provides me with the skills to help my colleagues design better proposals” she added.

The training is supported by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the European Union through the Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States project.

The training course, delivered by Pacific Research and Evaluation Associates, seeks to reinforce knowledge and skills in the application of the logical framework approach as a means to design project proposals for funding assistance in the area of climate change adaptation and other areas of development.

This second round of training focuses particularly on monitoring and evaluation.

“Having a good monitoring and evaluation mechanism in place is particularly important in view of the many ongoing projects we have in Tuvalu as it leads to improved project outputs and increased benefit to the country” Assistant Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Tourism and Environment, Mr Pasuna Tuaga, said.

“Getting all the stakeholders including the communities and the beneficiaries involved in proposal preparation right from the beginning is critical. They know more about the issues and problems than we do” said Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr Kilifi O’Brien.

Similar training sessions will be held in Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau and Tonga during 2015.

The Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States project is an SPC-European Union joint initiative, made possible with European Union funding of FJD \$26.76 million (€11.4 million). It is implemented regionally by SPC and nationally by each of the nine participating governments in Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu. See: <http://projects.pacificclimatechange.net/projects/global-climate-change-alliance-pacific-small-island-states>

Progress to improve the climate and disaster resilience of these nine Pacific Island nations is among the on-ground benefits to Pacific communities to be highlighted during the 2015 European Union Year of Development. See also: <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/fiji/>

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Picture caption: Tuvaluans make use of the airport runway for sports and games in this low lying atoll where land is very scarce.

