

# GCCA +

THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS INITIATIVE



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the European Union

## SCALING UP PACIFIC ADAPTATION (SUPA)

### Cook Islands In-Country Consultation 8 August 2019

Climate Change Cook Islands Office, Rarotonga, Cook Islands

### Consultation Report



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique



**SPREP**  
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme



**USP**

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE  
SOUTH PACIFIC

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## Executive Summary

The Global Climate Change Alliance Plus - Scaling up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) is about scaling up climate change adaptation measures in specific sectors supported by knowledge management and capacity building. The 4.5 year project (2019-2023) is funded with EUR 14.89 million from the European Union (EU) and implemented by The Pacific Community (SPC) in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and The University of the South Pacific (USP), in collaboration with the governments and peoples of Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu.

The in-country consultation in Rarotonga, Cook Islands took place on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and participants consisted of representatives of Climate Change Cook Islands, Ministry of Marine Resources, Marae Moana Coordination Office, Kōrero O Te 'Ōrau, Cook Islands National Council of Women and USP.

The consultation was successful in achieving the objectives. The project was introduced to the participants by SPC and clarification was made on the roles of the three implementing partners and the link between the SPC and USP components of the project. The meeting agreed that should the capacity needs assessment reveal a need that is not currently covered in the Resilience qualifications modules, this would have to be discussed with USP directly to develop a solution. It was reiterated that USP's capacity building under GCCA+ SUPA would target the sub-national level and specifically in the sector that SPC will be working in. Clarification was also made on the modalities for funds transfer for implementation and national coordination and the activities covered by the Euro 0.5 million.

Climate Change Cook Islands (CCCI) provided a brief presentation on the sector selection process and the link between the sector selection and national priorities. The three national partners – Ministry of Marine Resources, Marae Moana Coordination Office and Kōrero O Te 'Ōrau – were given an opportunity to share ongoing or completed activities or projects that GCCA+ SUPA could scale up. The consultation revolved around selecting activities based on the presentations by the three national partners. It was agreed that Ministry of Marine Resources would be responsible for identifying the project sites and it would have to be endorsed by the Secretary of Marine Resources.

The GCCA+ SUPA proposed activities in Cook Islands align with the:

- Te Kaveinga Nui National Sustainable Development Plan (2016-2020);
- Te Kaveinga Strategy (2019-2024);
- Cook Islands Climate Change Policy (2018-2028);
- JNAP II (2016-2020);
- Cook Islands Climate Change Country Programme (2018-2030); and
- Ministry of Marine Resources Strategic Plan.

The consultation developed three project outputs:

**Output 1:** Coastal environment and coral monitoring continued for Rarotonga and replicated in two outer islands (one each in the Northern and Southern islands).

**Output 2:** Climate change, ocean resilience and traditional knowledge are mainstreamed into island plans.

**Output 3:** Lessons learned and best practices are shared with local and international communities through case studies, short videos and community and school programs.

Based on the project outputs identified, the in-country partners will develop the Concept Note and submit it to SPC. Next steps for 2019 were also identified.

## Background



*Participants during the consultation*

## Introduction

Climate change and natural disasters are among the greatest challenges jeopardising and undermining the ability of all countries, in particular Pacific countries, to achieve the sustainable development goals and reduce poverty. The Global Climate Change Alliance Plus – Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) project falls under the GCCA+ flagship initiative, which has three priorities: (i) mainstreaming climate change issues into poverty reduction and development efforts; (ii) increasing resilience to climate related stresses and shocks; and (iii) Supporting the formulation and implementation of concrete and integrated sector-based climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

The GCCA+ SUPA project is about scaling up climate change adaptation measures in specific sectors supported by knowledge management and capacity building. The 4.5-year project (2019 – 2023) is funded with EUR14.89 million from the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) in collaboration with the governments and peoples of Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu.

The overall objective is to enhance climate change adaptation and resilience within ten Pacific Island countries. The specific objective is to strengthen the implementation of sector-based, but integrated, climate change and disaster risk management strategies and plans.

The three key outputs for the GCCA+ SUPA project are:

1. Strengthen strategic planning at national levels;
2. Enhance the capacity of sub-national government stakeholders to build resilient communities; and
3. Scale up resilient development measures in specific sectors.

The activities will adopt a gender-sensitive and rights-based approach throughout and will take into account lessons learnt and wise practices from the regional, national, sub-national and community-based projects and programmes implemented over the last decade.

The Action will contribute to the *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP)*, the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, the *Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, and the *Sustainable Development Goals*, especially Goal 2: zero hunger, Goal 3: good health and well-being, Goal 6: clean water and sanitation and Goal 13: climate action, Goal 14: life below water and Goal 15: life on land.



The Cabinet of the Cook Islands approved the *Cook Islands Climate Change Policy* in March 2019. The policy provides for how government agencies and non-government organisations address the impact of climate change in their own plans and strategies. In March 2019, Cabinet also approved CCCI's *Cook Islands Country Programme*, a climate change programme that is guided by the National Sustainable Development Plan, and builds upon a number of other nationally approved plans and strategies, such as the National Infrastructure Investment Plan. Recognising the need for a resilient population, Cook Islands developed the *Joint National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation (JNAP I) 2011-2015*, which provided a roadmap for implementing Priority 5: Resilience of the *National Sustainable Development Plan (2011-2015)*. Cook Islands is now focused on their second *Joint National Action Plan (JNAP II) 2016-2020* which is aimed at strengthening resilience toward a safe, secure and sustainable future. The focal point for all climate resilient activities in Cook Islands is Climate Change Cook Islands which comes under the auspices of the Office of the Prime Minister.

Key challenges to adaptation in Cook Islands include:

- Raising public awareness about climate change risks;
- Technical capacity constraints in permanent positions to take on the task of managing climate change risks over the near and long term;
- Retention of skilled personnel in country through appropriate levels of remuneration and other means; and
- Ensuring that gender-sensitivity and vulnerabilities of different community members are addressed in the implementation of climate change activities.

The in-country consultation for the GCCA+ SUPA was held at the Climate Change Cook Islands Office, Rarotonga on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

### **Consultation objectives**

The consultation had the following objectives:

1. Introduce the project to national partners.
2. Select geographical focus and specific intervention(s) for scaling up in GCCA+ SUPA.
3. Identify next steps for 2019 for GCCA+ SUPA.

### **Consultation agenda**

The agenda is presented as Annex 1.

### **Participants**

The participants included representatives of:

- Ministry of Marine Resources;
- Marae Moana Coordination Office;
- Kōrero O Te 'Ōrau (nominated NGO that is responsible for education and awareness activities on behalf of Climate Change Cook Islands);
- Cook Islands National Council of Women; and
- GCCA+ SUPA project team from SPC and USP.

The list of participants is presented as Annex 2.

## Consultation methodology

The consultation was facilitated by Ms. Celine Dyer, Climate Change Coordinator, Climate Change Cook Islands. She welcomed the participants and the GCCA+ SUPA team. She also provided a brief outline of the Agenda and expectations of the consultation.

Mrs Titilia Rabuatoka, Project Implementation Officer, GCCA+ SUPA then introduced the project to the participants and clarification was made on the following:

- The roles of the three implementing partners and the link between the SPC and USP components of the project – the three implementing partners are each responsible for one key result area. SPREP will focus on learning from the past, SPC will focus on scaling up sustainable adaptation measures in specific sectors and USP will focus on addressing capacity gaps in the sector that SPC works in but at the sub-national level;
- Capacity needs assessment by USP – should the capacity needs assessment reveal a need that is not currently covered in the Resilience qualifications modules, this would have to be discussed with USP directly to develop a solution;
- Modalities for funds transfer – funds transfer can either be through a grant agreement between SPC and Cook Islands Government or direct procurement/hire by SPC or a blend of the two modalities; and
- Funding – the Euro 0.5 million covers in-country consultations, staff needs, design and implementation of tangible on-the-ground scaling up measures, capacity building in the monitoring and maintenance of the scaled up measures and mainstreaming climate and disaster risk into the sector policies, plans and budgets.

Following the presentation by the GCCA+ SUPA, Climate Change Cook Islands provided a brief presentation on the sector selection process and the link between the sector selection and national priorities. It was noted that initially Cook Islands had selected Education however this was not one of the five sectors that could be covered by the GCCA+ SUPA project. Climate Change Cook Islands then consulted with the Cook Islands Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Platform before selecting Marine Resources as the sector. Prior to this consultation, Climate Change Cook Islands had also completed initial meetings with the three national partners: Ministry of Marine Resources, Marae Moana Coordination Office and Kōrero O Te ‘Ōrau.

Following the presentation by Climate Change Cook Islands, the three national partners were given an opportunity to share ongoing or completed activities or projects that GCCA+ SUPA could scale up. The consultation then revolved around selecting activities based on the presentations by the three national partners. It was noted that coastal environment and coral monitoring had potential for scaling up to two outer islands (one each in the Northern and Southern islands) and there was also a need to upgrade the laboratory at the hatchery in Aitutaki. It was agreed that Ministry of Marine Resources would be responsible for identifying the project sites and it would have to be endorsed by the Secretary of Marine Resources. Another initiative that was discussed was “Lagoon Day” which involved government agencies setting up interactive displays for students and the public as a form of information sharing of the work of each government agency. It was noted that it required a lot of planning and coordination but it was a good initiative and it just needed to be implemented in a different way e.g. students to be responsible for setting up and presenting on the interactive displays. This would mean a lot more engagement on the part of students.

The activities in Cook Islands are aligned with the following national policies and plans:

- Te Kaveinga Nui National Sustainable Development Plan (2016-2020);
- Te Kaveinga Strategy (2019-2024);
- Cook Islands Climate Change Policy (2018-2028);
- JNAP II (2016-2020);
- Cook Islands Climate Change Country Programme (2018-2030); and
- Ministry of Marine Resources Strategic Plan.

The meeting was concluded by Ms. Dyer who thanked the participants and the GCCA+ SUPA team.

## Consultation outcomes

- Confirmed the sector selection process and the link to national priorities.
- Identified the following project outputs:
  - Output 1:** Coastal environment and coral monitoring continued for Rarotonga and replicated in two outer islands (one each in the Northern and Southern islands).
  - Output 2:** Climate change, ocean resilience and traditional knowledge are mainstreamed into island plans.
  - Output 3:** Lessons learned and best practices are shared with local and international communities through case studies, short videos and community and school programs.
- Identified the following activities for the project:
  - Upgrade of the existing laboratory on Aitutaki for marine scientific research, survey, monitoring and learning.
  - Enhance monitoring, training and techniques, include research, data analysis and results interpretation relevant to local context and needs.
  - Promote and increase training opportunities and engagement with schools, civil societies, academics and communities through awareness initiatives.
  - Mainstream climate change, ocean resilience and traditional knowledge into sector policy and island plans.
  - Develop and share lessons learned and best practices with local and international communities.

## Planning the next steps in 2019 for GCCA+ SUPA

It was agreed that the in-country partners will develop the Concept Note and submit it to SPC. Tentative timelines for 2019 are given below.

- **Week of 23<sup>rd</sup> September:** Concept Note to be submitted to SUPA team.
- **Week of either 11<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> November:** Project design consultation.
- Capacity assessment form to be completed by Ministry of Finance & Economic Management (MFEM) and sent to SPC with the latest version of the financial policies and procedures manual. This is to facilitate the Grant Agreement for the recruitment of the national coordination and a Finance and Administrative Officer. Noted that Climate Change Cook Islands would like the National Coordinator to be in place before the project design consultation in November.

## Consultation evaluation

Participants completed individual evaluation forms; these have been compiled in Annex 3. The meeting objectives were met and 67% of respondents felt engaged and that their input was given full consideration. Concerning expectations of the consultation, 83% expressed that the consultation had met their expectations. Comments given by the participants will inform future consultations.

- *Small group consultations work better with less dominance from others and everyone gets to participate and contribute.*
- *For participation, I scored low because I am still under orientation for my internship in the PEARL project but I learned a lot from what is currently going on with this next project in GCCA+ SUPA.*
- *Excellent meeting! We felt that our feedback/input was considered and the consultation was informative and covered national level discussions, NGOs, government agencies and the private sector. Excellent examples from in-country and regional projects were also discussed.*
- *Heavy on public servant presence...weak on NGOs...best NGOs speak and participate on same table as this workshop rather than have their own table to discuss and possibly change the hard work done today.*
- *Although only a few attended, there is general agreement on the issues that need to be prioritized. More representatives other than government representatives should have been invited.*

## Annex 1: Agenda



### Global Climate Change Alliance Plus – Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) Project

8 August 2019, Rarotonga, Cook Islands

#### AGENDA

Time	Agenda item	Presenter
8:30am - 9:00am	Registration	
9:00am - 9:05am	Opening Prayer	Ms Taputukura Mariri, National Council of Women
9:05am - 9:15am	Welcome & Opening remarks	Ms Celine Dyer, Climate Change Coordinator, Climate Change Cook Islands
9:15am - 9:55am	Overview of GCCA+ SUPA and scope of support	Ms Titilia Rabuatoka (GCCA+ SUPA, SPC)
10:00am - 10:30am	Morning Tea	
10:30am - 11:00am	Clarification on how the sector was selected	Ms Celine Dyer, Climate Change Coordinator, Climate Change Cook Islands
11:00am - 11:30am	Description of organisation and actions undertaken and present some ideas and proposals for SUPA activities	Ministry of Marine Resources
11:30am - 12:00pm	Description of organisation and actions undertaken and present some ideas and proposals for SUPA activities	Marae Moana
12:00pm - 12:30pm	Description of organisation and actions undertaken and present some ideas and proposals for SUPA activities	Kōrero O Te 'Ōrau
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Lunch	
1:30pm - 3:00pm	Consolidation and selection of activities for SUPA	All
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Afternoon Tea	
3:30pm - 4:00pm	Define main objective for SUPA activities and identify key outputs	All
4:00pm - 4:25pm	Next steps for 2019 and close of meeting	Ms Titilia Rabuatoka & Ms Celine Dyer
4:25pm - 4:30pm	Evaluation	All

## Annex 2: List of Participants

### Global Climate Change Alliance Plus – Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) Project

#### Consultation on GCCA+ SUPA

**Date:** Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2019, 8:30am – 4:30pm

**Venue:** Climate Change Cook Islands, Rarotonga, Cook Islands

#### Participants List

No.	Name	Gender	Ministry / Organisation	Email
1	Taputukura Mariri	F	Cook Islands National Council of Women	<a href="mailto:cincw@cincw.org.ck">cincw@cincw.org.ck</a>
2	Celine Dyer	F	Climate Change Cook Islands	<a href="mailto:celine.dyer@cookislands.gov.ck">celine.dyer@cookislands.gov.ck</a>
3	Kori Raumea	M	Ministry of Marine Resources	<a href="mailto:K.Raumea@mmr.gov.ck">K.Raumea@mmr.gov.ck</a>
4	Jacqui Evans	F	Marae Moana Coordination Office	<a href="mailto:jacqui.evans@cookislands.gov.ck">jacqui.evans@cookislands.gov.ck</a>
5	Vaine Wichman	F	USP GCCA+ SUPA	<a href="mailto:vaine@cibs.co.ck">vaine@cibs.co.ck</a>
6	Krysten Tuufuli	F	PEARL Project, Climate Change Cook Islands	<a href="mailto:krysten.tuufuli@cookislands.gov.ck">krysten.tuufuli@cookislands.gov.ck</a>
7	Melina Tuiravakai	F	PEARL Project, Climate Change Cook Islands	<a href="mailto:melina.tuiravakai@cookislands.gov.ck">melina.tuiravakai@cookislands.gov.ck</a>
8	Titilia Rabuatoka	F	SPC GCCA+ SUPA	<a href="mailto:titiliar@spc.int">titiliar@spc.int</a>

### Annex 3: Summary of consultation evaluation

Total responses: Male – 1; Female – 5

<b>1. Meeting objective</b>	<b>1 (lowest)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 (highest)</b>
On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, to what extent did the meeting achieve its objective i.e. selection of SUPA project activities?			1	2	3
<b>2. Participation</b>	<b>1 (lowest)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 (highest)</b>
On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, did you feel engaged and that your input was given full consideration?		2		3	1
<b>3. Expectations</b>	<b>1 (lowest)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 (highest)</b>
On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, did the consultation meet your expectations?		1	1	1	3
<p>Comments (if any):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Small group consultations work better with less dominance from others and everyone gets to participate and contribute.</i></li> <li>• <i>For participation, I scored low because I am still under orientation for my internship in the PEARL project but I learned a lot from what is currently going on with this next project in GCCA+ SUPA.</i></li> <li>• <i>Excellent meeting! We felt that our feedback/input was considered and the consultation was informative and covered national level discussions, NGOs, government agencies and the private sector. Excellent examples from in-country and regional projects were also discussed.</i></li> <li>• <i>Heavy on public servant presence...weak on NGOs...best NGOs speak and participate on same table as this workshop rather than have their own table to discuss and possibly change the hard work done today.</i></li> <li>• <i>Although only a few attended, there is general agreement on the issues that need to be prioritized. More representatives other than government representatives should have been invited.</i></li> </ul>					