

GCCA +

THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS INITIATIVE



Funded by
the European Union

SCALING UP PACIFIC ADAPTATION (SUPA)

Niue Project Design Consultation 9 & 10 October 2019

Scenic Matavai Resort, Niue

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 Alofi, Niue took place on 9th and 10th October 2019 and participants consisted of representatives from government departments, namely Disaster Management, Education, Environment, Health, Infrastructure, Meteorology, Natural Resources, Project Management & Coordination, and Treasury; and two implementing partners – SPC 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. It was reiterated that USP's capacity building under GCCA+ SUPA would target accredited resilience training at 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 under Output 3 of the project. The meeting agreed that impact assessments need to be carried out of past projects and it was noted that Niue's constraints include capacity, context and funding.

The Department of Environment provided insight into previous water security measures implemented between 2012 and 2019. Challenges identified include lack of community ownership which resulted in a number of incomplete installations and prioritisation of recipients as there was no defined criteria for selection of recipients. Lessons learnt include the need for key stakeholders to be involved from the beginning of the project and the importance of developing criteria for selection of recipients. The GCCA+ SUPA project will take into consideration the challenges and lessons learnt from previous water security interventions.

Based on the outcome of the two-day consultation, the key result areas were proposed:

- KRA 1: Business plan developed for the moulding facility.
- KRA 2: Partially completed rainwater harvesting systems fully installed in selected, occupied households.
- KRA 3: Water quality monitoring programme strengthened for government departments and established for householders with tanks.
- KRA 4: Recruitment and employment of a National Coordinator.

Based on the key result areas, the team at SPC will work with the Department of Environment on drafting and finalising the project design document. Next steps for 2019 were also identified.

Background



Group work 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 people-centred 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.



In 2009 the Department of Environment developed the *National Climate Change Policy: A safer, more resilient Niue to impacts of climate change and towards achieving sustainable livelihood*. Niue’s latest strategic plan *Ko e Tohi Fakatokatoka Gahua ha Niue (Niue National Strategic Plan - NNSP) 2016-2026* provides a vision for the people of Niue: ‘Working together to protect the people and the environment.’ The *Strategic Roadmap for Emergency Management in Niue (2015-2019)* promotes a shared responsibility and a ‘whole of nation’ approach to emergency management. Implementation of programs to support the roadmap have led to streamlining of governance and structures, increasing capability within all levels of society and stronger engagement between communities, government and agencies.

Key challenges to adaptation in Niue 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;
- Niue’s infrastructure is also a constraint: there are only two flights a week in and out of Niue so when there are regional and international meetings outside of Niue, at least 1.5 weeks of staff time is consumed (depending on flight schedules) and this is not conducive for a country with existing human resource constraints;
- 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 Scenic Matavai Resort, Alofi on 9th and 10th October 2019.

Consultation objectives

The consultation had the following objectives:

1. Introduce the project to national partners.
2. To understand the sustainability of the water security measures implemented in Niue between 2012 and 2019.
3. Discussion of key result areas for GCCA+ SUPA project.
4. 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 Natural Resources;
- Ministry of Infrastructure;
- Department of Education;
- Department of Meteorology;
- Department of Health;
- Department of Environment;
- Treasury;

- Project Management & Coordination Unit;
- National Disaster Management Office;
- Ridge-to-Reef Project;
- GIZ ACSE Project; 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. Charlotte Pihigia, Climate Change Officer, Department of Environment. She welcomed the participants and the GCCA+ SUPA team. She also provided a brief outline of the Agenda.

Welcome and opening remarks were delivered by Mr. Haden Talagi, Director for Environment. He highlighted that GCCA+ SUPA has explicitly provided the opportunity to align climate change adaptation activities with the national strategic plans which is a requirement by the Niue Project Oversight Steering Team. The overall design of GCCA+ SUPA enables Niue to build on the work that has completed instead of starting from scratch. He invited stakeholders to actively participate in the discussions as the consultation will inform the design of project activities for Niue.

Remarks from Dr. Gillian Cambers, GCCA+ SUPA Project Manager, included highlights from the previous GCCA project (GCCA: PSIS) which was implemented by SPC in Niue from 2012 to 2015. Dr. Cambers also outlined how the GCCA+ SUPA project was developed. She reiterated earlier remarks from Mr. Talagi that GCCA+ SUPA is not about starting something new. The meeting objectives and areas for discussion were also shared.

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

- The link between the SPC and USP components of the project – 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;
- USP's activities and budget – USP will conduct a diagnostic assessment of training needs and the result of the assessments will guide the trainings conducted at the sub-national level in the sector that SPC focuses on. USP will work from the accredited Resilience qualifications and they may, depending on the needs identified, focus on specific modules of these qualifications. Where necessary, the training content and delivery will be translated into the local languages. USP has approximately EUR 85,000 allocated for capacity building in each country;
- Sector selection – Each country is to select one primary sector but the activities can be in collaboration with other sectors. For example, the primary sector can be water and one of the activities can be conducted or in collaboration with the Ministry of Health; and
- SPREP's output – SPREP will conduct impact assessments of past, completed climate change adaptation interventions in three countries and the results of these assessments will be shared with all ten countries in GCCA+ SUPA. SPREP is still recruiting its team and the selection of countries has not yet been finalised..

Mr. Sheik Irfaan, Project Finance Manager, GCCA+ SUPA shared information on the financing arrangements that are possible under the project. Clarification was made on the following:

- Funding – For SPC's component, each country is allocated EUR 0.5 million to fund 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. In terms of financing arrangements, if a Grant Agreement is signed between SPC and the Government of Niue, SPC will transfer the agreed amount to

Niue Treasury. Treasury will have to ensure that SPC's procurement policy is followed in-country. Initial discussions with Treasury have confirmed that Treasury's procurement policy is more stringent than SPC's procurement policy so the national procurement policy can be applied. It was noted that the Government of Niue experienced challenges with projects that are not channelled through government and therefore do not follow government procedures;

- Contingency – a contingency of EUR 20,000 is set aside for each country from their EUR 0.5 million. The contingency will be re-visited during the implementation phase to assess if there is a need to utilise it. The contingency can cover eligible cost overruns. SPC will need to approve the use of the contingency for each country;
- Technical skills – The project will hire a fulltime engineer in 2020 who will work with all ten countries. If other technical skills are needed by a country that are not already available within the project, then these will be funded from the specific country's allocation i.e. EUR 0.5 million;
- Co-financing – Co-financing will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. However, it is important to note that if co-financing is to take place, specific deliverables for the co-financing must be clearly linked to GCCA+ SUPA; and
- Post-project assessments and monitoring – Generally countries rarely conduct post-project assessments and monitoring 3-5 years after a project has completed. This is mainly due to capacity and funding constraints and context.

Following the presentation by the GCCA+ SUPA, the Department of Environment presented a summary of water security measures implemented in Niue between 2012 and 2019. Challenges included lack of community ownership which resulted in a number of incomplete installations; availability of resources (labour and materials) on-island versus time factor; and meeting reporting requirements. Lessons learnt include involving key stakeholders right at the beginning of the project; developing a set of criteria at the outset to guide selection of households; regular team meetings for coordination; and the importance of national partners fully understanding national, regional and donor requirements and obligations. The meeting confirmed that the rainwater harvesting systems installed by the GCCA: PSIS project have been useful and there is a general consensus that the water tanks are a back-up for households.

The Department of Environment conducted a Village Inspection in 2018 which highlighted several issues with regards to the water security measures including the difficulty faced by householders in cleaning their water tanks because the manhole at the top of the tank was not big enough for a person. This was a concern for the Department of Health as it relates to water quality. The Department of Health conducts water quality testing every quarter by collecting samples from water bores, village reservoirs and random households (3 households per village x 14 villages).

During the consultation, participants were given an opportunity to discuss the concept note for Niue specifically the key result areas (KRA). Participants also discussed activities for each KRA and the risks to successful implementation which include householders defaulting on their obligations, natural disasters and resource constraints (labour and materials).

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

- Niue National Strategic Plan (2016-2026)
- Niue National Climate Change Policy (2010)
- Strategic Roadmap for Emergency Management in Niue (2015-2019)

The meeting was concluded by Dr. Josie Tamate, Director General for Ministry of Natural Resources who thanked the participants and the GCCA+ SUPA team.

Consultation outcomes

- Proposed the following key result areas for Niue:
 - **KRA 1:** Business plan developed for the moulding facility.
 - **KRA 2:** Partially completed rainwater harvesting systems fully installed in selected, occupied households.

- **KRA 3:** Water quality monitoring programme strengthened for government departments and established for householders with tanks.
- **KRA 4:** Recruitment and employment of a National Coordinator.
- Identified the following key activities for the project:
 - Consultancy to prepare a business plan for the moulding facility.
 - Develop criteria for selection of households for rainwater harvesting installation.
 - Design, installation and training for rainwater harvesting systems.
 - Procurement of water quality testing equipment and a vehicle for Public Health Unit to support regular water quality sampling and testing.
 - Specialised training in water quality sampling, testing and data analysis for staff of Public Health Unit laboratory.



Group presentation during the consultation

Planning the next steps for GCCA+ SUPA

Tentative timelines for 2019 are given below.

- **Week of 28th October 2019:** Request letter, ToR for national coordinator and SPC Concept Note for Grant Applications to be submitted to SUPA team. SPC will also need the completed Capacity Assessment form and Niue's financial policies.
- **15th November 2019:** Draft PDD circulated.
- **15th December 2019:** PDD signed.
- **Q2 2020:** Implementation starts.

Consultation evaluation

Participants completed individual evaluation forms; these have been compiled and are presented in Annex 3. The meeting objectives were met and 87% of respondents felt engaged and that their input was given full consideration. Concerning expectations of the consultation, 93% expressed that the consultation had met their expectations. Comments given by the participants will inform future consultations.

- *Good overall but streamlining of activities is important for project completion to be successful.*
- *Very grateful for the opportunity to further consult and discuss on some of the things that are still in the pipeline that needs to be revisited and strengthened. Pleased that we are given an opportunity to address those things to ensure that we continue to protect our water quality in Niue.*
- *Maybe consider giving community members an opportunity to input their thoughts and ideas as well.*
- *Would have been ideal if other agencies under GCCA+ SUPA were present so we can understand their roles as well. Acknowledge SPC support and assistance.*

Annex 1: Consultation Agenda



Funded by the European Union



Global Climate Change Alliance Plus – Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) Project Niue Project Design Consultation 9-10 October 2019, Scenic Matavai Resort, Alofi

Workshop objectives:

1. Introduce the project to national partners.
2. To understand the sustainability of the water security measures implemented in Niue between 2012 and 2019.
3. Discuss key result areas for GCCA+ SUPA project.
4. Identify next steps for 2019 for GCCA+ SUPA.

9th October 2019:

Time	Agenda	Facilitator
8.30am	Registration	
9.00am	Welcome, prayer and introductions	Ms. Charlotte Pihigia (Climate Change Officer, Department of Environment)
9.10am	Opening Remarks	Mr. Haden Talagi (Director, Department of Environment)
9.20am	Remarks from the GCCA + SUPA Project	Dr. Gillian Cambers (Project Manager, GCCA+ SUPA)
9.30am	Overview of workshop objectives	Ms. Charlotte Pihigia
9.40am	Introduction to GCCA+ SUPA Project Discussion	Mrs. Titilia Rabuatoka (Project Implementation Officer, GCCA+ SUPA)
9.50am	Financing arrangements for implementation of GCCA+ SUPA	Mr. Sheik Irfaan (Finance Manager, GCCA+ SUPA)
10.00am	Morning Tea and group photo	
10.30am	Perspectives on water security measures implemented between 2012 and 2019 and discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Environment representative • SPC representative 	Ms. Charlotte Pihigia
1.00pm	Lunch	
2.00pm	Outline of Niue's concept note	Mr. Haden Talagi
2.10pm	Discussion on concept note	
3.30pm	Afternoon Tea	
4.00pm	Discussion on concept note continued	
4:30pm	Wrap up of Day 1	Ms. Charlotte Pihigia

10th October 2019:

Time	Agenda	Facilitator
8.30am	Registration	
9.00am	Recap of Day 1 and prayer	Ms. Charlotte Pihigia
9.10am	Small group discussions to identify activities for each key result area	Ms. Charlotte Pihigia
10.30am	Morning Tea	
11.00am	Groups present back to main group and key result areas and activities finalised	
12.00pm	Identification of risks and mitigation measures to ensure successful project implementation	Ms. Charlotte Pihigia
1.00pm	Lunch	
2.00pm	Next steps for 2019	
2:30pm	Closing and evaluation	

Annex 2: List of Participants

**Global Climate Change Alliance Plus – Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) Project
Niue Project Design Consultation
9-10 October 2019, Scenic Matavai Resort, Alofi**

PARTICIPANTS LIST

No.	Name	Gender	Organisation	Email / Phone
1	Mayra Tareig	F	Intern, Department of Education	Tareigmayra@gmail.com
2	Fiafia Rex	F	Research & Community Officer, GCCA+ SUPA, USP, Niue Campus	fiafiarex@gmail.com
3	Clemencia Sioneholo	F	Meteorology Officer, Department of Meteorology	Clemencia.Sioneholo@mail.gov.nu
4	Grizelda Mokoia	F	Principal Public Health Officer, Department of Health	Grizelda.Mokoia@mail.gov.nu
5	Haden Talagi	M	Director, Department of Environment	haden.talagi@mail.gov.nu
6	Crispina Konelio	F	Project Manager, IW Ridge-to-Reef Project	crispina.konelio@mail.gov.nu
7	Annmarie Aholima	F	Project Management & Coordination Unit	Annmarie.Aholima@mail.gov.nu
8	Felicia Talagi	F	Director, Project Management & Coordination Unit	felicia.pihigia@mail.gov.nu
9	Robin Hekau	M	National Disaster Management Office	Robin.Hekau@mail.gov.nu
10	Huggard Tongatule	M	Biodiversity Officer, Department of Environment	Huggard.Tongatule@mail.gov.nu
11	Doreen Siataga	F	Treasury	doreen.siataga@mail.gov.nu
12	Charlotte Pihigia	F	Climate Change Officer, Department of Environment	charlotte.pihigia@mail.gov.nu
13	Hivi Puheke	M	GIZ ACSE Project	hivi.puheke@mail.gov.nu
14	Andre Siohane	M	Director General Ministry of Infrastructure	andre.siohane@mail.gov.nu
15	Dr. Josie Tamate	F	Director General Ministry of Natural Resources	Josie.Tamate@mail.gov.nu
16	Gillian Cambers	F	Project Manager GCCA+ SUPA, SPC	gillianc@spc.int
17	Sheik Irfaan	M	Finance Manager GCCA+ SUPA, SPC	sheiki@spc.int
18	Titilia Rabuatoka	F	Project Implementation Officer GCCA+ SUPA, SPC	titiliar@spc.int

Annex 3: Evaluation summary

Total responses: Male – 5; Female – 9; Unknown – 1

1. Meeting objective	1 (lowest)	2	3	4	5 (highest)
On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, to what extent did the meeting achieve its objectives?			1	11	3
2. Participation	1 (lowest)	2	3	4	5 (highest)
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	9	4
3. Expectations	1 (lowest)	2	3	4	5 (highest)
On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, did the consultation meet your expectations?			1	12	2
<p>Comments (if any):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good overall but streamlining of activities is important for project completion to be successful. • Better discussion and input if all relevant stakeholders were present in both Day 1 and 2. • Thank you and look forward to more communication and sustainable feedback. • Very good discussions. Open and frank. Look forward to seeing detailed design of project. • Very grateful for the opportunity to further consult and discuss on some of the things that are still in the pipeline that needs to be revisited and strengthened. Pleased that we are given an opportunity to address those things to ensure that we continue to protect our water quality in Niue. • Maybe consider giving community members an opportunity to input their thoughts and ideas as well. • Would have been ideal if other agencies under GCCA+ SUPA were present so we can understand their roles as well. Acknowledge SPC support and assistance. • Acknowledged participants and officials in participation at this important consultation. All points and matters discussed well. Thanks. • Thank you and look forward to progressing this project. • Very productive! 					