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THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS INITIATIVE



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SCALING UP PACIFIC ADAPTATION (SUPA)

Report: Vava'u Youth Consultation



Pacific
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Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



USP
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE
SOUTH PACIFIC



GCCA+ SUPA Project Coordinator, Manu P. Manuofetoa (sitting at the right end corner) with representatives of youth from various youth groups who attended the youth consultation meeting.

Supported by the GCCA+ SUPA Project in partnership with the Tonga Green Climate Fund (GCF) Project

A. INTRODUCTION

Youths play a crucial role in terms of community development. This is why government development partners and donors focus on supporting youths by encouraging them to be fully involved in the implementation of project activities whether it be at local, regional or international level.

The Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC) through its European Union-funded Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (SUPA) project began its first youth consultation in the island group of Vava'u on 8th December, 2020.

The purpose of the meeting was to inform the youth of Vava'u about the GCCA+ SUPA project, its mandated activities especially with component 3 of the project; which pays particular attention to youths as agents for building climate resilience through the use of various adaptation measures.

According to the project work plan, the youth consultation was only planned for the main island of Tongatapu. The decision to take the first youth consultation to Vava'u was based on three reasons. Firstly, there were two youth groups from Vava'u that participated in the project's Short Video Competition (SVC) that was held in September 2020 during Climate Change Awareness Week. One of these groups had won third prize in the SVC and had expressed their keen interest to know more about the project especially with the youth involvement in the adaptation component. Secondly, the festive season had begun earlier in the year 2020 so most youth groups in Tongatapu were already engaged in their own activities. Thirdly, the Tonga Green Climate Fund (GCF) project agreed to partner up with the GCCA+ SUPA project in conducting these youth consultations. The GCF project had offered to provide for the catering (morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea) and the venue.

The meeting was held at the Mormon Church Hall in Pouono, Neiafu, Vava'u and was attended by the President of the Vava'u Youth Association, Mr. Tevita Toli and representatives from more than 20 youth groups from around the island.

B. PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION

The overall purpose of the consultation was to inform the youths of Vava'u of the GCCA+ SUPA project and the three Key Result Areas it focuses on.

The consultation objectives were:

1. To educate youths of Vava'u so that they can better understand climate change and its negative impacts on the environment and across all sectors.
2. To create awareness about the project and how it plans to build resilience in Tonga through the implementation of a number of small-scale adaptation projects – both hard and soft options.
3. To identify problems and possible courses of action that the government and perhaps the GCCA+ SUPA project would be able to assist in.



C. PARTICIPATION

The target was 20 youths but the consultation brought together a total of 30 participants that included two Town Officers, Government officials, NGO representatives and representatives from various youth groups around Vava'u.

The Participant List is attached as Annex A of this report.

D. COSTING

The youth consultation was organized and executed by the GCCA+ SUPA project in partnership with the Tonga GCF project. The GCF provided catering and the venue. The GCCA+ SUPA took charge of the logistics.

E. MAJOR ISSUES DISCUSSED

Highlighted below is a list of key issues shared by participants during the consultation:

1. Lack of awareness and training

One major challenge brought up during the discussion was the fact that youths of Vava'u hardly hear and read about climate change and its impacts and do not fully understand the issue. In addition to this lack of understanding - youth leaders are not well trained to lead and work with young people. Participants shared the view that more awareness and training should be carried out for youths. Through training, young people will be empowered and will be actively involved in youth activities.

2. Lack of support

Participants acknowledged that there is also a lack of support for youths from every actor in society particularly the Government, NGOs, local community, family members and peers who have discouraged youths from becoming active within their communities. The lack of support has also led to some projects being left unattended and others not completed. To secure the full commitment of youth, they should be supported with all relevant resources.

3. Unstable working environment

Working for youths is the most unstable working environment. This is due to the fact that workers are mostly volunteers. There are only a few permanent workers and their salaries are very low compared to Government and other official staff. This problem is likely to continue into the future unless genuine efforts are put in place by decision makers towards promoting a decent working environment that young people will embrace and be proud of.

F. CONCLUSION

The Consultation was hailed as a success. Participants were able to gain a better understanding of climate change and its impacts. Youths were informed of what the GCCA+ SUPA project will be implementing in order to build resilience in Tonga. Also, shared was the role of the Tonga GCF project especially on how to write a proposal seeking assistance from the Green Climate Fund which is a key part of youth development and climate change resilience.

ANNEX A: Participant List – Vava’u Youth Consultation

Date: 8 December, 2020
 Venue: LDS Hall (Pouono), Vava’u
 Time: 10:00 am – 2:30 pm

PARTICIPANT LIST

	NAME	MINISTRY/ORGANIZATION	EMAIL/PHONE	SIGNATURE
1	Elizabeth Akauola	ME/DECC	zakauola@u.rochester.edu	<i>[Signature]</i>
2	Vasitai Tukuafo	MFAT	princestai@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
3	Yoshika Latu		7315292	<i>[Signature]</i>
4	Samuela Vainikolo	Cafe Escape	samuels77vainikolo@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
5	Akuila Houtau	MET	houtauakuila@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
6	Prof. Tutuika		Tutuika@tutuika.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
7	Uliani Parisoni	Rabisoni Tautape	8709142	<i>[Signature]</i>
8	Amanala Funela	PR / Tam Office Tautape	amanalafunela@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
9	Sandy Tautape	Tam OFFICER	malakb2004@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
10	Petulisa Fangupo	Vava'u Youth Congress	lisa.fangupo@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
11	Kato Fifi	Vava'u Youth Congress	katotai@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
12	Fuatino Utokamano		ffuatino@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
13	Moses Kalavaha		kalavaha@kalavaha.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
14	Fatu Latu			<i>[Signature]</i>
15	Mina Finau			<i>[Signature]</i>
16	Lisa Finau	V.E.P.A	lisa.finau@vavauemissions.org	<i>[Signature]</i>
17	Suarie Tuitape	Youth	tautape.9@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
18	Turika Nofa	Youth		<i>[Signature]</i>
19	Viliami Vainaku	Youth		<i>[Signature]</i>
20	Anahe Mehe	Youth		<i>[Signature]</i>
21	Venisi Mamata	Youth	venisimamata@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
22	Sandy Tupulotu	Ministry of Tourism	sandy.tupulotu@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
23	Fane Vaitaki	Youth		<i>[Signature]</i>
24	Melelupe Tulihakau	Youth	tulihakau@melelupe.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
25	Akaneai Vakalahi	Youth		<i>[Signature]</i>
26	Oia Kaufana	Youth		<i>[Signature]</i>
27	Fotu Latu	Youth		<i>[Signature]</i>
28	Faitoua Tuiono	Youth		<i>[Signature]</i>
29	Mai Vaisima	Youth		<i>[Signature]</i>
30	Pasimata Vaisima	ovaka F/O	ulaisi.vaisima@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
31	Faiane Tukofuta		faiane.tukofuta@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
32	Valeti Fine	Vava'u Family Health	vfine@tongafamilyhealth.org.to	<i>[Signature]</i>