

Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States Project

ROADSHOW

“Advancing climate change adaptation in the Pacific: Experiences from the past five years”

Introduction

The Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project is funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The project budget is €11.4 million. The overall objective of the GCCA: PSIS project is to support the governments of nine Pacific smaller island states, namely Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu, in their efforts to tackle the adverse effects of climate change. The project approach is to assist the nine countries design and implement practical on-the-ground climate change adaptation projects in conjunction with mainstreaming climate change into line ministries and national development plans; thereby helping countries move from an *ad hoc* project-by-project approach towards a programmatic approach underpinning an entire sector.



Implementing practical on-the-ground climate change adaptation projects over the past five years, supported by mainstreaming and training, has brought with it successes and challenges in project implementation and management. In early September 2015 the project had a regional lessons learnt meeting in Yap State, FSM where participants from the nine implementing countries shared experiences and lessons learnt from the GCCA: PSIS project. These have been documented in a [report](#). In trying to go a step further it was decided to share these experiences verbally with as many partners as possible in Fiji, FSM, New Caledonia and Samoa so as to obtain feedback and promote dialogue.



The roadshows featured key climate change adaptation experiences and lessons learnt and presented an opportunity for discussion and sharing of best practices during this European Year for Development where the highlight is on showcasing Europe’s commitment to making a real and long-term difference and motivating Europeans to get involved in development.


Each roadshow was presented by the GCCA: PSIS team and consisted of a 15-minute [lessons learnt video](#), a presentation on ‘Exploring the experiences’ through four case studies, and then the most important component – discussion. A brief summarising the project’s key lessons learnt is attached as Appendix 1.




Find below a brief summary of the discussions from the roadshows.



Discussion summary




No.	Date	Venue	# of participants	Brief summary	Pictures
1	28.10.15	Geoscience Division, SPC, Nabua	43 (female – 22; male – 21)	<p>Discussions after the team’s presentation focused on (1) SODIS, (2) a coordinated approach to addressing climate change and (3) new project indicators.</p> <p>(1) The discussion on SODIS was more on sustainability of the initiative – in Kiribati the project is working with different partners and WHO now plans to take SODIS to other communities in Kiribati.</p> <p>(2) Having a coordinated approach to addressing climate change is a challenge and for the GCCA: PSIS project, partnerships was a key component in relieving the pressure on the islands of so many different projects, e.g. in Niue, a partnership between three projects combined efforts.</p> <p>(3) Existing indicators (such as dollars per capita) do not take into account the fact that outer islands are mostly subsistence economies with less than 10% being income earners.</p> <p>As this was the first roadshow participants were asked to write down one way of improving the presentation. Based on the feedback the presentation was revised to focus on four case studies.</p>	 
2	09.11.15	SPREP, Samoa	31 (female – 20; male – 11)	<p>The roadshow at SPREP was attended by SPREP staff and the Programme Officer at the UNDP Office in Samoa. Discussions after the team’s presentation focused on (1) financial management of the project, (2) SODIS and (3) the idea of a roadshow.</p> <p>(1) There were questions on how the project dealt with financial</p>	




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				<p>management and reporting given the variations in robustness among countries – there were checks and balances in place for all countries e.g. payment in tranches, 80% acquittal with full supporting documentation before payment of additional tranches.</p> <p>There was a discussion on whether projects are really addressing the main problem with regard to financial management – shortage of skilled persons in ministries of finance – the GCCA: PSIS project addressed this in a small way by working with the country and their national systems in the project implementation. Some on-the-job training was provided particularly in areas like procurement but it was noted that there is a need for common reporting templates for donors.</p> <p>There was also a discussion on the engagement of project officers in-country and whether project finance officers were factored into the budget at the beginning of the project. In most cases project finance officers were only recruited well into the project and this could be achieved since significant contingency funds were built into the project budgets.</p> <p>(2) The connection between SODIS and climate change was raised – Kiribati chose the health sector as rising temperature levels and changing rainfall patterns will likely exacerbate conditions for mosquito breeding and increase the potential for transmission of diseases such as dengue fever as well as affecting food safety and water quality.</p> <p>There was a question on why glass bottles are not used for SODIS - glass bottles are usually not used for SODIS because they tend to chip and break more frequently and are not as</p>	 


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				<p>strong as plastic bottles. (Although <u>clear</u> glass bottles up to 2 litres in size can be used for SODIS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was a request for SODIS materials to be shared with SPREP and for the video to be recorded with English voice-over. - Also, the USAID Project for Abaiang has made contact with the Environmental Health Unit in Kiribati to replicate SODIS in Abaiang and all costs will be covered by this project. <p>(3) There was a general consensus that a roadshow provides an excellent approach to sharing lessons learnt and experiences midway and after the project and should be adopted by all projects. People would rather interact and hear the stories than read long reports.</p>	
3	10.11.15	EU Delegation, Suva	23 (female – 11; male – 12)	<p>Discussions at the EU Delegation office covered similar topics as at the GSD and SPREP events in terms of SODIS, sustainability of projects and outer island indicators.</p> <p>Other questions include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Are there any traditional knowledge related lessons? (2) What is some of the science behind the projects? (3) Further elaboration on the south-south cooperation – Tonga-Palau exchange and Kiribati-Nauru exchange. (4) Which sector requires the most effort and it was agreed that water and food security should be priorities followed by coastal protection. (5) Plans for teaching outer islanders on how to be self-reliant – the project is trying to assist outer islanders to not always rely on aid projects but rather to use their traditional resilience. (6) How the municipal and local levels of government were 	

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				<p>engaged during the project, e.g. in Tonga this was achieved through local governments and town officers.</p> <p>(7) Whether SPC has a monitoring mechanism to monitor the impact of the project after project life – we are not aware of any such mechanism at the moment.</p> <p>(8) What makes the project regional? The sharing of activities and the focus on climate change adaptation.</p>	
4	12.11.15	GIZ, Suva	12 (female – 8; male – 4)	<p>Discussions after the presentation at the GIZ office were geared more towards exchanging best practices with staff working on the ACSE project.</p> <p>With regard to financial management, the project has provided the countries with templates for reporting and this has worked well. If we want to get the countries to provide regular reports the templates need to be as simple as possible.</p> <p>In cases where countries do not provide appropriate documentation such as audited accounts at the beginning of the project – the project finance officer visited the countries to do a financial capacity assessment and understand the national systems being used. (These were undertaken as “add-ons” to country missions). Based on these assessments it was decided that the funds would be disbursed to the MoF as they were better equipped and had all necessary processes and systems in place.</p> <p>Knowledge management was also discussed and in particular the use of social media. Social media has not been used widely in this project although it is noted that SPC is now promoting various forms of social media. For the project, media releases have worked well in getting coverage of major project events. The Pacific Climate Change Portal is also being regularly updated with project information.</p>	 

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				With regard to a discussion on outer island indicators, it was noted that projects need to build capacity in-country so that the countries can continue to monitor the impact of the project after project life and should also be able to capture attitudinal changes in the communities as a result of the project.	
5	18.11.15	SPC North Pacific Office	10 (female – 5; male – 5)	The roadshow was presented to SPC colleagues who were then asked to give advice on what should be included in the presentation to development partners. Three items were raised: (1) Include results of the study on SODIS. (2) Include statistics in the presentation e.g. faecal coliform count in Kiribati water. (3) Project sustainability, acquittal problems where funds are transferred to line ministries.	
6	18.11.15	UNDP, Suva	15 (female – 10; male – 5)	Discussion during the UNDP roadshow showed areas for possible collaboration and maybe even sustainability for projects e.g. we were informed that the LDCF with \$16M for climate change and health sector also covered Kiribati and UNDP is providing a ship for Tuvalu and the ship can be used by other projects in Tuvalu for transportation to outer islands. Other aspects discussed include SODIS and if there were plans to take the initiative to the regional level and how the project managed government and donor's expectations. It was noted during the discussion that tracking adaptation and monitoring development continues to be a challenge.	
7	20.11.15	Development partners, Pohnpei, FSM	11 (female – 7; Male – 4)	Development partners including the Government of Pohnpei State, FSM Overseas Development Assistance Office, USAID; JICA; The Nature Conservancy, GIZ and the UN Joint Presence in Pohnpei, expressed an appreciation for the information shared during the roadshow.	

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				<p>Questions raised mainly focused on project finances such as disbursement of funds given the setup in FSM whether 10% remained with the state and 90% given to the project; alternatives for increasing funds for outer island projects because of logistical constraints; collaboration with national government's finance.</p> <p>Whether there will be another phase to the GCCA: PSIS project.</p> <p>SODIS was noted as being vital information for outer islands.</p>	
8	26.11.15	Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva	37 (female – 18; male – 19)	<p>The feature event at the Grand Pacific Hotel was specifically for the heads of diplomatic delegations based in Suva, regional organisations not already visited, and selected NGOs based in Suva that also worked in climate change adaptation.</p> <p>Representatives of delegations from RMI and Kiribati expressed appreciation for the work done by the project in their countries particularly the on-the-ground adaptation strategies. The representative for the Marshall Islands noted that in particular he was happy to see a demonstration project being undertaken in a remote outer island.</p> <p>Discussions after the presentation focused on a number of areas: (1) Indicators to say a country has improved its resilience – resilience can be defined in many ways, and one is the ability to cope with change. It could be change in climate, financial or economic situations. If we can build that resilience then we will have achieved some project aims. One set of GCCA: PSIS indicators focus on outcomes over the next 2-5 years and will indicate if the resilience has been achieved but it is too soon to try and measure these now. Countries also need to have the capacity to be able to continue to enhance</p>	 

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				<p>resilience.</p> <p>Indicators need to be localised especially for outer islands. Noting that outer islanders have over the years acquired traditional skills, and it may be useful to integrate these skills into projects.</p> <p>(2) Ownership – helping governments choose their project priority is a very important first step. Then the government and its people are more likely to support the project.</p> <p>(3) Accessing climate funds – Cook Islands is the only country covered by this project that is seeking accreditation to the Adaptation Fund. It is a lengthy process as also seen by SPREP who took 3 years to get accreditation. All of the countries are very interested in the Green Climate Fund.</p> <p>(4) Mainstreaming has been used to support the demonstration projects e.g. in Kiribati the mainstreaming activity focuses on revising the National Climate Change Health Action plan to cover the period 2016-2021. In addition aspects of the Public Health regulations have been amended to give legislative support to water and food safety monitoring and also to public clean-ups.</p> <p>In Tonga the approach was to focus on coastal protection and the mainstreaming activity focused on starting work on an integrated coastal management plan.</p> <p>(5) The representative for UNICEF noted that this organisation was also working to spread the SODIS method to the outer islands of Kiribati.</p>	  

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9	02.02.16	Pasifika Secretariat Room, SPC	2 (female – 2; male – 0)	This presentation was specifically for Sylvie Goyet (Director, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change) and Aude Chenet (Planning Officer, Energy and Support) and the discussion focused around SODIS and taking it regionally, taking the roadshow to Noumea for Noumea-based projects and sustainability and skill retention.	
10	16.03.16	SPC Noumea Meeting Room 1	43 (female – 24; male – 19)	<p>The roadshow was presented to SPC staff based in Noumea and included the Director General. The EU representative in New Caledonia and the French representative to CRGA were also present. Overall there was much appreciation for the team's efforts in bringing the lessons learnt to Noumea.</p> <p>Discussions after the presentation focused on a number of areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) SODIS – the potential health problems with using plastic for SODIS was raised. Plastic bottles have been tested extensively for SODIS and the overall conclusion is that PET bottles with #1 in the triangle are safe to use. Glass bottles can also be used but only up to 1.5 litres. (2) Lessons learnt from projects should always be shared (verbally) before project closure. Sometimes people know the lessons learnt but it's quite different when someone actually says it and most people do not have time to read the lessons learnt from reports. (3) Skill retention within SPC after project closure – given that the GCCA project has been one of the successful projects within SPC, what are SPC's plans in terms of skill retention? (4) Need for specific skilled staff within SPC given the direction the organisation is heading. These include procurement specialists, lawyers, civil engineers, etc who will be dedicated to supporting projects so that SPC moves away from hiring these services on a project-basis. 	
11	24.03.16	Pasifika Conference	23	This roadshow was for SPC staff and brought out other lessons from other projects which were shared by staff. There was a	


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		Room, SPC	(female – 12; male – 11)	<p>consensus that SPC needs to have guidelines particularly for project managers' induction so that they know what is expected of them at the end of the project to ensure proper project closure.</p> <p>The discussion also focused on current observations where staff were “going out one door” and “coming in through another door” as consultants. SPC needs to have guidelines governing this as well e.g. 1-year lapse before former staff can join SPC as consultants.</p> <p>The issue of sub-delegation was also raised.</p>	

Conclusion


The roadshows proved to be a very effective way of sharing the lessons learnt with partners and other stakeholders and gave the project team further insights on ways to complete and enhance the project activities in the remaining months of implementation. It is recommended that other projects might like to consider a similar approach as part of their exit strategies.

Appendix 1: Lessons learnt brief


CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE PACIFIC



European Union





GCCA
Global Climate Change Alliance

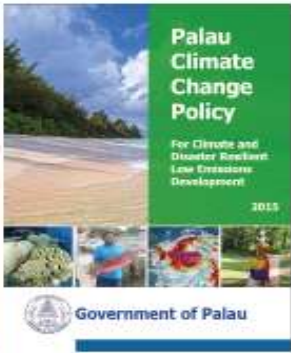


SPC
Secretariat
of the Pacific
Community

Lessons learnt from the Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States project







Implementing tangible on-the-ground activities supported by mainstreaming helps countries tackle the adverse effects of climate change.

Project approach to implement specific on-the-ground climate change adaptation activities with mainstreaming and targeted training helps countries tackle the adverse effects of climate change

- Having countries select the areas of national focus ensures that the project addresses the real needs of the countries.
- Communities want to see some tangible outcomes.
- A sector strengthening approach builds on existing institutional structures, enhances existing sectoral and specialist capacity, and provides the opportunity for cross sectoral interaction and collaboration since climate change is a cross cutting issue.

Technical assistance helps to build the capacity of countries to address climate change challenges

- Conducting and communicating the results of sound feasibility and design engineering studies for water and coastal infrastructure projects informs project selection, decision making, national environmental assessment requirements and provides information to help explain to communities about proposed measures.
- Preparation of climate change adaptation policies and plans in a systematic and collaborative manner helps increase collaboration among national agencies and civil society.
- Targeted training for special groups such as women and the elderly enhances their capacity and provides tangible benefits.
- Conducting national lessons learnt workshops engages stakeholders in assessment and future project planning.
- South-south cooperation such as trainings and attachments between project countries, is very useful in sharing valuable information.

Partnerships provide for improving development effectiveness at the national and regional levels

- Partnerships are based on mutual trust; require transparency and accountability; involve considerable communication and human interaction; and are time-consuming.
- Partnership arrangements can provide more effective delivery of project activities at the national level.


- Responsibilities of each partner have to be clearly defined, balanced and with sufficient flexibility to account for changing conditions.
- Partnerships can contribute to sustainability of project activities.
- Partners have to be prepared to take tough decisions when required.

Outer islands need special attention

- Outer islands require special attention because their communities' needs are often greater than those on main islands
- Outer islands face serious transportation and logistical constraints resulting in higher costs. These need to be factored into project planning and include shipping delays, challenging port facilities, lengthy travel time and long recovery times after natural disasters.
- People living on outer islands are not only recipients. Interaction between a main island and outer islands is a two-way process.
- Regular communication with stakeholders on outer islands, using all available tools e.g. walkie-talkie, VHF radio, and mobile phones, is vital.
- Outer islanders have local and traditional knowledge that can be combined with scientific knowledge to build resilience.

New project indicators need to be developed, especially for outer islands

- Dollars per capita as an indicator for an outer island project is not always appropriate as there are special factors to consider such as market forces, sources of income and population dynamics.
- Indicators for outer island projects need to be specially designed to:
 - o include an in-depth understanding of how outer islands work, particularly that economies are largely subsistence-based and that on average less than 10% of the population are income earners;
 - o understand that population demographics in outer islands are often very different to the main island;
 - o recognise that outer island residents also contribute significant non-monetary input to projects;
 - o acknowledge that everyone has the right to certain basic human needs such as clean drinking water.



CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE PACIFIC



Targeted training and knowledge management contributes to sustainability.

Transferring project funds directly to national budgets builds increased national ownership of project activities; enhances collaboration between the Ministry of Finance and line agencies; allows for improved accountability and transparency, and creates employment for local staff

- Governments need to be ready to receive donor support and have appropriate structures in place for project implementation, management and fund disbursement.
- The Ministry of Finance should be the sole recipient of donor funds.
- Strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Finance has to be ongoing and line ministries need to liaise closely with Ministries of Finance throughout project implementation and to sensitise them about project timelines and implementation schedules.
- Strengthen the skills of line ministries in national procurement procedures.
- Factor currency fluctuations into project design at the beginning of the project and explore options such as working with national commercial banks to peg the exchange rate at the beginning of a project.

The process of accessing new forms of climate finance can strengthen national systems, although the process is very complicated

- Strengthening national systems for accessing new forms of climate finance builds country capacity and promotes development effectiveness.
- Applying to become a national implementing entity under the Adaptation Fund is a long process, resource-intensive and coordination is critical. The process results in strengthening national systems.
- Partners should strive to align to national systems where such systems are well-established and effective, provided partner criteria for sound fiduciary management are met.
- Countries need to have appropriate planning priorities in place e.g. Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management as it leads to a more effective and efficient project implementation.
- Regional organisations can provide assistance to countries to access new forms of climate finance, however, the process has to be country-owned.

Training in proposal preparation using the logical framework approach strengthens national capacity to prepare project proposals for funding

- Involving government, NGOs, private sector representatives, community leaders and members, youth and women in the training is vital. Even if all groups are not involved in the actual proposal writing they can contribute to the project design through the consultative process and thereby take ownership of projects.
- Project proposals using the logical framework approach are thorough and uniform.
- The logical framework approach can be used in post-disaster recovery planning.

Changing community perceptions and attitudes is a lengthy process requiring specialist skills

- The goal is to build the resilience of communities rather than increasing their reliance on projects.
- Ensure education and awareness programmes are ongoing, relevant and innovative and are in place at the commencement of the project.
- Customise awareness activities for the target audience and, in particular, translate materials into the local language.
- Combining awareness activities with actions through 'learning by doing' is an effective method, as is using local champions, which also provides for continuation of awareness activities.
- Ensure awareness specialists are knowledgeable about climate change, committed and have the skills to use a variety of approaches for different stakeholders.
- Raising community expectations requires having a reasonably high level of certainty about eventual delivery of project activities.

Information sharing and knowledge management are important for the timely dissemination of project outputs and lessons learnt

- Using a diverse range of media is essential for information sharing e.g. television, social media, radio, established national days such as Earth Day, noticeboards, posters, cartoons and school competitions.
- Using tools such as databases to store relevant environmental and climate information contributes to effective knowledge management and future planning.
- The Pacific Climate Change Portal is a useful information and knowledge source for informing future project planning.