



GCCA +

THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS INITIATIVE



Funded by
the European Union

**Global Climate Change Alliance Plus
Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA)
USP Component**

Programming Document: GCPC, Global Climate Change
Alliance Plus Annual Action Document (AAP) 2017

TITLE OF PROJECT

Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Scaling Up
Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA):
USP Component

DONOR

European Union

REPORTING PERIOD

January - April 2021

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

The Pacific Community (SPC) – Lead agency, and
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

FOCUS COUNTRIES

The Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of
Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga, and Tuvalu



Table of Contents

1.0	Project Title	1
2.0	Project Background	1
3.0	Objective of the Project	3
4.0	USP Project Coordination	4
5.0	USP SUPA Project's Response to COVID Pandemic	4
6.0	Summary of Project Deliverables	6
7.0	Challenges and Solutions	11

1.0. PROJECT TITLE

Global Climate Change Alliance Plus – Scaling-Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+SUPA): USP Component

2.0. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The ten countries covered by this Action are Small Island Developing States (SIDS). About 1.5 million people spread over an immense ocean area in the western Pacific, equivalent to 15% of the globe's surface. This diverse region falls into three geographical regions of the West Pacific: Melanesia (Fiji); Micronesia (Palau, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Nauru and Kiribati); and Polynesia (Cook Islands, Niue, Tonga, and Tuvalu). The nine project countries located in Micronesia and Polynesia each have less than 110,000, and five of those countries have a population of less than 20,000. The population of Fiji is 883,483 as of 2018. The total gross domestic product (GDP) for the ten countries is EUR 7.6 billion (2015 estimate). Against this background, the GCCA+SUPA Action will focus on scaling-up adaptation activities in specific sectors supported by knowledge management and capacity building.

As an implementing partner, the University of the South Pacific's (USP's) component explicitly focuses on Output 2. On "Planning and decision-making capacities to address climate change and disaster risks at sub-national and community level strengthened, applying participatory, gender-sensitive and rights-based approaches." This output will focus mainly on building capacity in resilient development for local area stakeholders, starting with those residing in the geographical areas selected by the countries in Output 3.

This snapshot summary encompasses USP's main activities that have been carried out in the geographical areas (state, province, or island group) defined by the countries in Output 3. Output 2 builds on the foundation of participatory approaches to empower the community and sub-national government interventions and outcomes to build resilience.




Kolovai Mangroves Nursery
Luluāngaākau ki he Tonga

Supported by E.U.-GIZ ACSt Project
"Coastal Protection Trials in Western Tongatapu"

Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Climate Change and Communications (MEI/DECC) Department of Climate Change, Information, Disaster Management, Climate Change and Communications (MEI/DECC)

  

3.0. OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The ten countries covered by this Action are Small Island Developing States (SIDS). About 1.5 million people spread over an immense ocean area in the western Pacific, equivalent to 15% of the globe's surface. This diverse region falls into three geographical regions of the West Pacific: Melanesia (Fiji); Micronesia (Palau, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Nauru and Kiribati); and Polynesia (Cook Islands, Niue, Tonga, and Tuvalu). The nine project countries located in Micronesia and Polynesia each have less than 110,000, and five of those countries have a population of less than 20,000. The population of Fiji is 883,483 as of 2018. The total gross domestic product (GDP) for the ten countries is EUR 7.6 billion (2015 estimate). Against this background, the GCCA+SUPA Action will focus on scaling-up adaptation activities in specific sectors supported by knowledge management and capacity building.

As an implementing partner, the University of the South Pacific's (USP's) component explicitly focuses on Output 2. On "Planning and decision-making capacities to address climate change and disaster risks at sub-national and community level strengthened, applying participatory, gender-sensitive and rights-based approaches." This output will focus mainly on building capacity in resilient development for local area stakeholders, starting with those residing in the geographical areas selected by the countries in Output 3.

This snapshot summary encompasses USP's main activities that have been carried out in the geographical areas (state, province, or island group) defined by the countries in Output 3. Output 2 builds on the foundation of participatory approaches to empower the community and sub-national government interventions and outcomes to build resilience.

4.0. USP Project Coordination

Partner Meeting (SPC, SPREP & USP)

A total of three partner meetings were conducted between January and March, 2021 to update partners on project implementation progress and to strengthen coordination between partners.

Project Team Meeting

A total of three project team meetings were conducted between January and March, 2021 to update the individual countries on project implementation progress.

Steering Committee Meeting

A Steering Committee meeting was held on the 15th April, 2021 with the SUPA Project partners, EU, and ministerial partners in attendance to provides an update on progress towards the 2021 targets and to discuss the budget and anticipated savings for the 2021 budget.

5.0. USP SUPA PROJECT'S RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

The continuing Corona Virus Pandemic (COVID-19) has continued to impact the ten focus countries 2021. The SUPA Research and Community Officers (RCOs) have strategized and continuously engaged with partners in their respective countries, focusing at the sub-national level.

Implementation Challenges Resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Project activities were delayed due to travel and mass gatherings restrictions, lockdown in the implementing countries and implementation sites with implications for site visits.
- During the first quarter of 2021, project activities were delayed resulting in slow project expenditure.
- The lack of remote connectivity in many countries is delaying processes and meetings.

These are some of the strategies that were implemented in addressing the challenges:

- Revision of work plan to accommodate pandemic challenges and disasters.
- Research & Community Officers honored government restrictions by proceeding with activities with limited face to face interaction, e.g. completing desktop reviews and review of development plans and policies.
- Virtual meetings were held to ensure continued communication and enable us to address project issues with stakeholders.

6.0. SUMMARY OF PROJECT DELIVERABLES

Cook Islands

The Research Community Officer (RCO), Ms. Vaine Wichman, went to Aitutaki Island from 24 – 28 February 2021 to present the Participatory Needs Assessment (PNA) findings conducted in 2020. In consultation with the Island Council/Government, Ms. Wichman identified and selected the change agents/champions who will assist in the project and attend the island's training initiative. Ms. Wichman submitted a 3-4 year work plan to be conducted under the newly established Aitutaki's Community Sustainable Development Plan (ACSDP) to be completed by May 2021.

- In March, Ms. Wichman presented the Desktop Report to all Stakeholders.
- Ms. Wichman is preparing a news article on this stakeholder consultation.
- Ms. Wichman had a meeting with the Climate Division on how Aitutaki stakeholders can engage with the Certificate in Resilience Program.

Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)

- Mr. John Curley, the FSM Consultant, signed his renewed contract on 22nd February 2021.
- Mr. Curley made his trip across to Chuuk on 16th March, 2021. While on Chuuk preparing for the trip to the outer islands, he met most national stakeholders and gathered the information to feed into the desktop review report. The outer island trip was postponed due to a suspected Covid case on one island to be visited. John returned to Pohnpei and is awaiting further details from the SPC team for a rescheduled trip.

Fiji

- On 28th January, 2021, USP presented the draft development plan and PNA result to the government stakeholders in the Northern Division of Fiji.
- On the 6th April, 2021, a meeting was held with the Permanent Secretary of Rural and Maritime, Mr. David Kolitagane, to brief him on the USP SUPA project and the project's progress in the Province of Macuata. The briefing session was important since Mr. Kolitagane is the new PS for the Ministry.
- Ms. Teresia Powell, the Fiji RCO, canceled a workshop on "Sub-national Plan Prioritisation" scheduled from the 16th -19th March due to Tropical Cyclone Ana that badly affected the Northern Division of Fiji.
- A "Development Plan Guideline' workshop organized by the Ministry of Rural and Maritime and USP SUPA from the 20th to 21st April. The organizers also canceled it due to the COVID 19 lockdown. However, a virtual meeting on the 22 April, 2021 was to brief the participants on the workshop content.
- From the 26th- 29th April, 2021, a workshop to finalize the development plan guideline for the divisional level will be rescheduled following the ongoing COVID 19 lockdown. Fifty eight participants from the different line ministries were supposed to be in attendance.

Kiribati

- o Ms. Alice Tekaieti, the RCO for Kiribati, went to Beru Island on the 2nd to 7th – April 21 to brief the new Beru council (newly appointed administration) on the USP SUPA project and the Beru Island Strategic Plan.
- Ms. Tekaieti provided training on proposal writing with the council members.
- Ms. Tekaieti is having discussions with the council members on specifics of the leadership training requested from the Beru Island Council. She had continued consultation with Pacific TAFE on the provision of the Leadership training to ensure the training was contextualized to suit the Kiribati setting.

- The 18 March, 2021 marked the completion and the handing over of the Beru Strategic Plan which was received by the Mayor of Beru Island and 11 councilors representing every village on Beru Island.

Nauru

- The consultant for Nauru, Mr. Abraham Abe, signed his contract renewal on 31st March 2021.
- Mr. Abe has undertaken ongoing discussions with stakeholders on PNA. His PNA work plan is to be approved and implemented once plans are finalized. This consultation will reaffirm recommendations highlighted in his Desktop Review of training needs for the community development committees.
- The RCO is also having discussions with the Climate Change Unit on the need to revise/update the national climate change policy
- The RCO participated in the World Water Day celebration recently held in Nauru
- Mr. Abraham Abe continues to support and ensure that his activities are in alignment with SPC's activities.

Niue

- Ms. Alana Rex conducted a project proposal writing workshop on 21 February, 2021 with the Change Agent in Alofi village. The change agent wrote the proposal and submitted it to the Direct Aid Program to assist the PNA needs at the sub-national level.
- From February to March, 2021 Ms. Rex appeared on radio and TV shows raising awareness on climate change and disaster reduction awareness. She partnered with the Niue Primary school in this program.
- Ms. Rex has presented the Participatory Needs Analysis findings to the line ministries and submitted the final report.

RMI

- The SUPA project coordinator North, Ms. Aliti Koroi, and her RMI USP SUPA team are awaiting a response from the government counterparts in Majuro to confirm the consultation dates to discuss activities and work plans.
- For Jaluit, the same team for Majuro has a tentative trip in March. The USP SUPA team presents the disaster risk management plan to the council and stakeholders on the island.
- USP was present in the project's steering committee meeting coordinated by Tanner and the team.
- Ms. Koroi and the team are awaiting a response from their government counterparts in Majuro to confirm the consultation dates to discuss activities and work plans. Plans for a March Council meeting have been deferred to later; DRM plans still need to be discussed and endorsed by RMI NDMO.

Palau

- The project site for USP SUPA has changed from Arai State to Ngardmau State. The change request came from the Airai State Governor's Office. Late last year, the Arai Governor was involved in a motor-car accident and was critically injured. There was an election in the pipeline, delaying project implementation. Through a meeting with the Climate Change office, Ngardmau State was selected as a replacement. USP SUPA has established a relationship with Ngardmau State and will advance with the TNA. Due to time constraints, a desktop review study for Ngardmau was not feasible.
- The project consultant Ms. Carol Emaurois has since held two consultations with the Ngardmau State Officials to (i) introduce the project and (ii) discuss plans to conduct a more detailed TNA consultation to determine training needs and plan for training to address these needs. Due to the recent typhoon that affected the country, the TNA consultation was postponed.

Tonga

- The Tongan RCO, Mr. Unaloto Puloka, had his first meeting with Luisa Malolo, the Climate Change Director. USP, with the support of CCD, the JNAP team, and MORDI to review the six pilot communities' development plan. The purpose of the review is to identify the gaps and have the CC & DRM component strengthen. And to provide capacity building where required and requested. The review consultation to complete by April.
- Acknowledges SPC's action on mangrove replanting – this was also an outcome of USP's PNA with its communities
- Mr. Puloka has also had discussions with Tonga Skills Institute to engage 20 participants in one of its training; the 20 participants will include project community members

Tuvalu

- In partnership with the Meteorological Services and Red Cross society, USP is conducting 4 "Community cyclone season training with Funafuti communities. The training is completed in the first week of March.
- Ms.Vasa Saitala, the RCO for Tuvalu, is currently working on the PNA for Funafuti

7.0. Challenges and solutions.

Challenges	Strategies
COVID-19 crisis and the implementation of project activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct virtual meetings with the research and community officers RCOs based in the region. 2. Virtual workshop and training. 3. Review work plan for 2021.
Tropical cyclone and record setting rainfall resulting in extensive flooding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use of the virtual space to continue with communication and planning of activities. 2. Review of the workshop plan 3. Rescheduling of flights
Staff turn over	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The project coordinator has to take on the additional responsibilities of the M & E officer. 2. The USP HR is in the process of filling the position soon with delays because of the COVID pandemic.
Virtual meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet connectivity is a frequent issue while communicating remotely based RCOs. with 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. USP IT Support staff are often requested to assist with resolving Internet issues. 2. Teleconferencing an alternative to Zoom, Skype, 3. Frequent rescheduling of meetings to allow IT support to resolve internet issues.

