



**THE COASTAL
COMMUNITY
ADAPTATION PROJECT**

*Helping Pacific Island
Communities Adapt to
a Changing Climate*

C-CAP NEWSLETTER

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PROJECT STARTUP IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

Continuing to expand in the region, the C-CAP team made its first visit to the Solomon Islands in late October to undertake consultations and site investigations there, paving the way for the selection of new participating communities.

During the October visit, C-CAP's Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) Nicholas Hobgood and Community Liaison Specialist Isoa Korovulavula met with experts and representatives from a number of government agencies and environment sector organizations and projects. Nicholas and Isoa took the opportunity to tap into the considerable knowledge and experience of the contacts and learn more about the objectives and climate change-related agendas of the agencies, while also sharing information about C-CAP's objectives, current activities, and forward plans.

Through these initial consultations, C-CAP has broadly identified:

- the major climate change initiatives being implemented in the country, implementing agencies, and key contacts;
- key strategic documents and other information sources relevant to project planning;
- existing governance structures, resources and capacity levels of government and other agencies and other bodies;
- existing gaps and opportunities in the climate change adaptation sector with respect to Solomon Islands' coastal communities;
- the adaptation needs and priorities most commonly raised by coastal communities; and
- the sites and communities considered most vulnerable to climate change impacts.

C-CAP will continue to work with the Ministry of Environment and other partners and stakeholders to identify sites for participation.

The addition of a new C-CAP Country Mobilizer for Solomon Islands—currently being recruited for by the University of the South Pacific—will further propel the implementation of activities, scheduled to commence in early 2014.

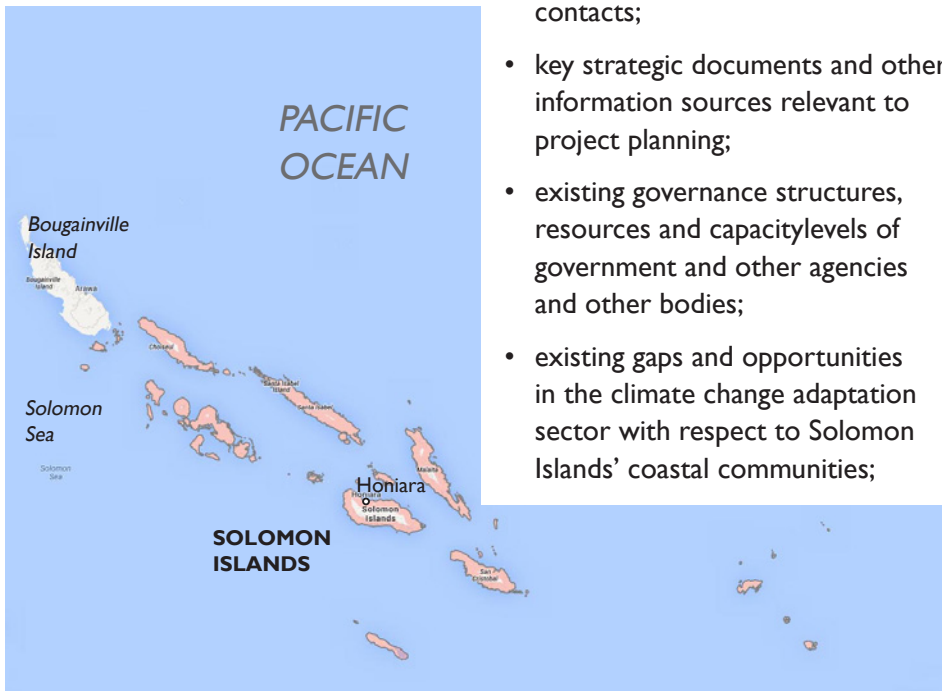


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CHALLENGES & ADAPTATION *in* TUVALU



Tuvalu is among the world's most vulnerable countries to climate change. USAID/C-CAP is supporting Tuvalu's efforts to mitigate climate change risks by implementing projects that will enhance the climate resilience of vulnerable coastal communities.

Described by some as the 'canary in the coal mine for climate change,' Tuvalu is a country well known for advocating climate change action, including on the international stage at United Nations fora. With international support, Tuvalu has identified the country's climate change adaptation priorities and action plans within its National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) and Joint National Action Plan (JNAP) on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk

Management (see following article for information on JNAPs and NAPAs).

The C-CAP team made an initial visit to Tuvalu in mid November to introduce the project to counterparts and key stakeholders,¹ and to kick-start the site selection process.

¹ Meetings were conducted with: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Labour, Tourism, Trade and Environment and Labour; Ministry of Energy and Public Works; Ministry for Home Affairs and Rural Development; and officials responsible for implementation for the NAPA.

ABOVE: Resident to around 6,000 people, much of Tuvalu's main atoll island of Funafuti is flooded during heavy rainfall and king tide events. *Photo by C-CAP.*

With site selections soon to be finalized and C-CAP's Tuvalu Country Mobilizer to shortly come on board, community consultations and other implementation activities are set to commence in the first quarter of 2014. C-CAP will undertake these efforts in collaboration with local authorities, whose involvement is critical to ensure the project will deliver locally-appropriate and sustainable adaptation outcomes.

CHALLENGES AND ADAPTATION IN TUVALU *continued...*

The Polynesian island nation is one of the smallest states in the world, with a land area of 26 square kilometers (10 square miles). With limited land, and islands at only two meters above sea level on average, Tuvalu is among the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change and natural disasters; a South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) [assessment](#) of Tuvalu's environmental vulnerability ranked the country as 'extremely vulnerable' and provided particularly high scores for vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters.

Sustained sea level rise is a very pressing issue for Tuvalu. Measurements taken since 1993, show the sea level near Tuvalu is rising approximately 5 mm per year.²

² Australian Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO (2011). *Climate Change in the Pacific: Scientific Assessment and New Research. Volume 2: Country Reports -Tuvalu.* URL: www.pacificclimatechangescience.org/publications/reports/

While 5 mm per year may seem inconsequential, it is a significant concern for countries like Tuvalu that have limited land resources and low elevations. Sea level rise also extends the inland reach of storm surge and king tides which increases the risk of saltwater intrusion. Over future decades, sea level rise is projected to continue: scientists predict that on average by 2100 under a low emissions scenario the world could experience sea levels up to 55 cm higher than 1986-2005 levels, and up to 98 cm higher under a high emissions scenario, or sea level rise of 0.5 to 1 meter.³ This is a startling

³ IPCC, 2013: Summary for Policymakers. In: *Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Stocker, T.F., D. Qin, G.-K. Plattner, M. Tignor, S. K. Allen, J. Boschung, A. Nauels, Y. Xia, V. Bex and P.M. Midgley (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA. URL: www.climatechange2013.org/images/uploads/WGI_AR5_SPM_brochure.pdf



ABOVE (from top): House over a lagoon on Funafuti atoll at low tide; Funafuti coastline. *Photos by C-CAP.*



ABOVE: Low-lying residences border a lagoon in Funafuti, Tuvalu. *Photo by C-CAP.*

CHALLENGES AND ADAPTATION IN TUVALU *continued...*

increase for an island nation with an average elevation above sea level of only 2 meters.

The effect of rising sea levels is already having a discernible effect in Tuvalu. When C-CAP's Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) Nicholas Hobgood and Senior Technical Advisor Jeremy Cole visited Tuvalu this month, they learned that following heavy rain and extreme tidal events, the airstrip of Tuvalu's only airport floods, which worryingly prevents the landing of planes. Locals report that many areas not previously flooded are now being affected. Even without rain, king tide events have been known to cause significant flooding throughout Tuvalu, causing seawater to issue upwards from the ground.

Some of the more serious impacts of saltwater intrusion and overwash include the contamination of drinking water reserves and the destruction of crops.

Saltwater contamination was one of the main contributors to a serious water shortage in September 2011 that led the Government of Tuvalu to declare a state of emergency. The most populous island of Funafuti was reported to be down to two to three days of drinking water supplies, and schools were closed due to the crisis. The United States helped strengthen Tuvalu's water security at the time by providing assistance towards the purchase of a new desalination plant for the country. Climate change adaptation activities delivered under USAID/C-CAP will further assist Tuvalu to build a resilient future.



ABOVE: Desalination plants—like this solar-powered facility found on Funafuti—help offset the impacts of prolonged drought and saltwater intrusion on Tuvalu's fresh water supplies. *Photo by C-CAP.*

Having commenced initial project investigations and consultations in Tuvalu, C-CAP's DCOP Nicholas Hobgood remarked, "It is apparent that project activities for Tuvalu will be very logistically challenging."

The limited transport options available for traveling within Tuvalu is one of the key challenges identified by the team; the country has few roads and since there is a single airport, passengers travel between islands on a ferry that makes return trips every two to four weeks. Careful and strategic planning at the initial stages of the project will help to ensure that the challenges of working in this remote Pacific Island nation can be overcome, enabling C-CAP to successfully secure climate change adaptation outcomes for Tuvalu's vulnerable coastal communities.

C-CAP's project partner, the University of the South Pacific, is currently recruiting for a C-CAP Country Mobilizer to serve as an ongoing presence and support for project implementation in Tuvalu.

Having expanded the project reach to include Tuvalu and Solomon Islands this month (see previous article), C-CAP now operates in eight Pacific Island countries. C-CAP will branch into a ninth country, Nauru, in December this year.

JNAPs JOINT NATIONAL ACTION PLANS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

What is a JNAP? A Joint National Action Plan (JNAP) is a country's strategy for developing and implementing integrated climate change (CC) and disaster risk management and reduction (DRM) development projects to help achieve sustainable development goals. JNAPs catalogue a country's CC and DRM vulnerabilities and priorities, identify the governance bodies and procedures for their management, and prescribe cost estimates for vulnerability/priority monitoring, management and implementation.

How are they useful? JNAPs are used by countries to guide their CC and DRM efforts and by development partners to understand country priorities, helping to inform decision-making.

Why address CC and DRM issues together? CC and DRM issues are closely linked in the Pacific Island region. This is because disasters experienced in the Pacific are often-times climate-related, and climate change effects exacerbate countries' vulnerability to disasters. The two closely related sectors of CC and DRM are addressed in the one document to ensure plans for both are well-integrated—an approach intended to reduce inefficiencies and ensure coordination.

Which Pacific Island countries have a JNAP? Tonga and the Cook Islands have begun implementing their

JNAPs. Tuvalu has completed its JNAP (entitled National Strategic Action Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management). Countries that recently completed their JNAPs, or are in the final stages of drafting, include Kiribati, Niue, Republic of Marshall Islands and Nauru.

How are JNAPs produced? JNAPs are prepared by key ministries of national governments with support from regional organizations such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC); international groups like the United Nations Development Program (UNDP); and bilateral assistance from foreign governments. The Pacific Climate Change Science Program reports—which are applied by C-CAP communities for climate-smart decision-making—are amongst the key resources consulted to identify climate change risks.

What is the difference between a JNAP and a NAPA? Like JNAPs, National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) are national strategy documents intended to direct funding and project implementation efforts towards key priorities. The key difference is that NAPAs focus specifically on climate change adaptation issues and needs. They are intended to be action-oriented documents, easily understood by decision makers and the public. Under the UN Framework



ABOVE: Tuvalu's and Tonga's JNAP.

Convention on Climate Change, Least Developed Countries are eligible for Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding to develop NAPAs. Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu—the Pacific Island countries deemed eligible for NAPA funding and support—have each submitted NAPAs. Kiribati and Tuvalu have produced both a JNAP and NAPA.

C-CAP, JNAPs and NAPAs—what's the link? The C-CAP team consults JNAPs, NAPAs, and other national and sub-national level strategy documents to inform project decision-making processes. The synthesized information contained within the reports about a country's climate vulnerabilities and priority adaptation initiatives are particularly useful for C-CAP. By consulting the JNAPs and NAPAs, Government authorities and the C-CAP team can work together from a common information source to determine how to best align C-CAP activities with national climate change adaptation strategies. This approach ensures that C-CAP activities contribute to achieving a country's prioritized climate change adaptation and disaster reduction outcomes.

ADAPTATION IN MOTION CHECKING IN WITH C-CAP COMMUNITIES: SAMOA, FIJI, AND TONGA.

In this periodic series, the C-CAP team checks in on partner communities that are navigating the long term process of climate change adaptation.

In Samoa...

NRW Macallan visited the Samoan community of Manase with the C-CAP team in October to finalize the design of the coastal protection project for the community.

Final preparations are underway for work anticipated to commence in December to deliver rainwater catchment infrastructure to the other four initially-selected Samoan communities: Falealupo, Auala, Asau, and Sapapalii.



ABOVE: C-CAP's engineering design subcontractor obtaining coordinates and survey notes during a visit to Manase, Samoa in October. Photo by C-CAP.

In Fiji...

In early November, the Fijian communities of Daku, Buretu, and the neighboring villages of Vunisinu and Nalase (Vunisinu/Nalase) received a visit from C-CAP's Senior Technical Adviser Jeremy Cole, C-CAP's Community Liaison Specialist Teddy Fong, and engineers from C-CAP's engineering design partner, NRW Macallan (Fiji). The visit provided an opportunity for the community to meet the engineers and discuss interventions to address the current and projected impacts of climate change on drainage and flooding in the community—which they identified as their top infrastructure priority.

At Vunisinu/Nalase, the engineers determined that new stormwater infrastructure, including drainage systems and floodgates, will resolve the flooding issues regularly occurring at high tides and during the rainy season.

NRW Macallan engineers will revisit the Fijian communities in December to gather further information—including information about existing drainage patterns in Vunisinu/Nalase—to finalize the infrastructure designs. Once completed, C-CAP's Procurement and Subcontracts Manager will draft Requests for Proposals for the delivery of the proposed work.

In Tonga...

Vulnerability and adaptation assessments were undertaken this month in the Tongan villages of 'Ahau and Tatakamotonga. These assessments capture socio-economic, resource, and health information about communities, providing C-CAP with a good understanding of site-specific challenges and opportunities.

In November, community agreements were signed by 'Ahau's and Tatakamotonga's community leaders, formalizing the commitment between C-CAP and the communities to work together on project implementation. Community agreements were also signed in the Tongan communities of Nukuleka and Popua. These communities represent four out of the five initially-selected communities for Tonga. The remaining community, Sopa, agreed this month that new rainwater catchment infrastructure will help address their climate change adaptation needs. Details of the proposed intervention will be investigated and decided before the community agreement is signed.

Early-stage assessments and surveys are underway in the second group of selected Tongan communities: 'Utulei, Tefisi, and Hunga.

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