



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

THE COASTAL  
COMMUNITY  
ADAPTATION PROJECT

# C-CAP NEWSLETTER

Helping Pacific  
Island Communities  
Adapt to a  
Changing Climate  
December 2014

## IN THIS ISSUE

A LOOK BACK AT 2014: A MESSAGE FROM PROJECT CHIEF OF PARTY..... P1

C-CAP TEAM REVIEWS SUCCESS STORIES— MONTH BY MONTH..... P2–5

ON THE ROAD TO GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION..... P6



USAID AROUND THE PACIFIC..... P8

ADAPTATION IN MOTION ..... P9

## A look back at 2014: Message from Chief of Party

The year 2014 has been a blur of activity for USAID/C-CAP!

Working in nine counties, C-CAP is now engaging with 77 communities and has made impressive strides across a wide spectrum of activities and processes to help communities identify climate change vulnerabilities and develop adaptation options to build climate resilience.

At the end of 2014, C-CAP completed the risk assessments and mapping that leads to community selection of climate change adaption strategies and projects at all 77 sites where we are working. Of those, 53 are in the design phase with C-CAP engineers tailoring projects to specific community climate change needs; 25 communities have either completed projects, have projects under way or are in the tendering stage with construction to start imminently. Among these projects, C-CAP is introducing some new technologies that we believe will have broader applications across the region—new geotextile “sandbagging” offers significant and cost effective solutions for durable



COP Stephen Smith

protection especially where aesthetics are involved, and use of new elastomer valves will extend the life of floodgates and offer higher performing and maintenance free flood control options (see the C-CAP November Newsletter for related articles).

In 2014, we rolled-out the Disaster Risk Reduction and Planning component of our work and are now working in 20 communities to finalize Disaster Reduction and Response plans. Importantly, and as with all of our community-level work, we are appreciative and grateful for the support of our local and national government counterparts that are participating in C-CAP activities, working with communities to understand climate-driven issues and needs, and will take home the community perspective and C-CAP processes as part of their ongoing functions.

Much happened in 2014 and we are continuing to learn as we expand our work in the Pacific. C-CAP staff worked diligently in 2014 to deliver climate adaptation solutions for our communities. Our administrative team kept up with the pace and challenge

**Continues on Page 5...**

### DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government. The USAID/C-CAP Newsletter is prepared with support from the American People.

# Snapshots of Success: USAID/C-CAP Year in Review

*2014 was an exciting, challenging, and productive year for USAID/C-CAP. Below is a snapshot for each month highlighting some of the accomplishments made possible by our dedicated*

*country mobilizers, partner communities, stakeholders, our team and of course, the generosity of the American people, as we help build resilience to climate change impacts around the Pacific.*



**January in Samoa:** One of the biggest problems posed by rising sea levels for Pacific Island nations is the contamination of freshwater sources by saltwater intrusion exacerbated by sea level rise. This was one of the risks identified by several sites in Samoa. By the end of January, C-CAP had installed 47 3,500-liter water tanks in the villages of Asau and Auala, providing 192,000 liters of additional water storage capacity for household use. The rainwater catchment and storage infrastructure provided by this USAID program will help these communities evade shortages of freshwater during prolonged drought and are centrally located to ensure that all families have access to the resource.

**February in Nauru:** One of the first steps C-CAP takes in working with communities is to sit down with the people to help them identify the greatest climate change risks and threats to their livelihoods. In February, the team made its first trip to Nauru to initiate discussions with villagers in Baiti, Yaren, Boe, Aiwo, and Denigomodu communities to help them assess their adaptation needs. In consultation with Nauru government officials, C-CAP is developing a range of creative solutions for the country's water security challenges, focusing on completing a central water scheme that will serve all C-CAP communities—in fact, the entire nation of Nauru.



**March in Vanuatu:** C-CAP communities are collaborating with multiple stakeholders and partners. In March, a team went to Vanuatu to meet with the National Advisory Board and government representatives from Tafea and Shefa provinces. In the villages, C-CAP technical team members led workshops on climate change awareness and risk mapping activities. These sessions involve all community leaders, women, youth, and the disabled to ensure all voices are heard and are included in planning. Working with provincial partners transfers knowledge and processes involved in working with communities to plan and arrive at climate adaptation solutions, and ensures sustainability.





## Snapshots of Success: USAID/C-CAP Year in Review



# April

**April in Tonga:** Preservation and protection of cultural heritage sites from damage exacerbated by climate change is a concern held by many of the communities. In Tonga, the Kilikilitefua Wall in the village of Makave is an important historic and cultural landmark and a source of tourism

for revenue. As part of the Climate Change Risk and Asset Mapping Activity, the Kilikilitefua Wall was identified as an economic asset to be protected. C-CAP processes that help communities assess climate change vulnerabilities for community assets are based on environmental resilience, sustainability, and socio-economic benefits.



**May in Fiji:** As a part of the process of identifying risks and vulnerabilities, C-CAP helps villagers transfer community-generated information about key residential zones and critical infrastructures to a site-specific Climate Change Risks and Asset Map using Google Map technology. With these maps, the Fijian villagers of Vunisinu and Nalase saw more clearly where regular flooding was causing damage and are now focused on working with C-CAP to improve the drainage infrastructure. The maps help build long-term resilience through climate-smart land use and disaster preparation planning. In these two villages, this has helped the community to focus on flood control and upgrading flood gates as the climate change-driven priority.

**June in Tuvalu:** While getting to this remote island nation can be a challenge, a team from C-CAP made its way to the communities of Kavatoetoe and Funafuti to begin the process of identifying and prioritizing climate change risks and impacts. Our team conducted an Infrastructure Priority Index (IPI) exercise with the Kavatoetoe community, leading to a collective plan to address water security issues as a priority. While led by C-CAP experts, the IPI process enriches community decision making and ultimately, responsibility for taking action to address climate change.





## Snapshots of Success: USAID/C-CAP Year in Review



**July in Fiji:** Contestants of Fiji's Hibiscus Queen Pageant visited Buretu, a C-CAP partner community, to learn about climate change. The visit was documented in local newspapers and TV news programs alike, helping C-CAP to do its part in support of the festival theme—raising awareness of how climate change affects lives. Public outreach like this promotes C-CAP's mandate to increase climate change awareness—in this instance, giving future women leaders an appreciation of how they can help their communities address long- and short-term effects of climate change.

**August in Kiribati:** Since 2013, Kiribati has been implementing a “Whole of Island Approach” for climate change adaptation in their nation. This initiative is an integrated, multisector strategy to increase social and economic resilience to climate change and natural hazards across the 32 widely dispersed atolls that make up the nation of Kiribati. C-CAP is supporting this national approach by working with the i-Kiribati people to provide climate-proof infrastructure and develop disaster risk preparedness plans.



## September



**September in Solomon Islands:** Five new communities are engaged in understanding and addressing their site-specific adaptation needs through the Climate Change Risk Assessment Mapping activity lead by the project. One of the most exciting aspects of these exercises is when we have the opportunities to engage the youth and women of these villages who then become empowered to create solutions to their problems. C-CAP worked with community groups in Iru, Lamenaaura, Loanialu, Launapikruan, and Lonamilo to determine risks and infrastructure priorities for these villages.

## Snapshots of Success: USAID/C-CAP Year in Review



**October in Papua New Guinea:** After the successful completion of the Supplementary Water Project in Pari Village, C-CAP facilitated Operation & Maintenance Training to ensure that landowners are able to repair and maintain the tanks to ensure sustainability of the project. Twelve tanks were installed with 9,000 liters of holding capacity. It was estimated that about 62 percent of the total population of 3,204 (PNG Census, 2011) will benefit from this supplementary water project.

**November in Kiribati:** Critical community infrastructure such as hospitals and evacuation centers are often not built to withstand the increasingly severe weather brought on by climate change. In North Tarawa, C-CAP, government stakeholders, local government leaders, landowners, and community members worked together to identify land for a new weather resilient Medical Aid Clinic for the village of Noto. Using C-CAP methodologies, the community identified this project as a priority climate change adaptation need.

USAID Pacific Islands Regional Director Maurice Knight (below, center) is pictured with members of the Noto community behind the maps.

## November



**December in Samoa:** C-CAP projects provide the opportunity to introduce innovative technologies to solve problems created by climate change. In Samoa, communities along one of the most popular tourist beaches in Manase are at risk from beach erosion and flood inundation. To help reinforce the shoreline, C-CAP engineers and our construction contractor have used the new Elcorock geotextile for creation of a more resilient revetment wall. Work on this project has been in collaboration with The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the Samoa Tourism Authority.

### FROM COP from Page 1...

of supporting a team that just won't stand still—and yet had the time to produce the youngest member of the C-CAP family—congratulations to Lynette Timba on the birth of “Young C-CAP” on December 15, 2014! This end-of-year newsletter captures vignettes from 2014 that give a glimpse into how we are working to help communities build resilience and to enhance local and regional capacity to address the significant effects of climate change in the Pacific.





# On the Road to Global Climate Change Action

In ancient times, it was said that all roads led to Rome; but in more modern history, Paris is where world leaders have gathered to sign treaties and restore world order. So it is no surprise that the road to global consensus and action on climate change is heading toward the City of Lights in 2015 for what many hope will be a dramatic shift in the direction of international climate change action. Leading up to next year's Paris agreement, three important conferences were held in 2014 to set the stage and prepare the foundation for what could result in a comprehensive agreement on climate change.

Of course, it has not been an easy road. From the first meeting of climate scientists at the 1979 World Climate Conference in Geneva, to the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, 1997's Kyoto Protocol, and the Durban Platform in 2012, the willingness of nations to even acknowledge climate change as a real problem, let alone to act upon that need, has been one of the greatest challenges to tackling climate



**ROAD TRIP:** USAID partners are pictured with part of the U.S. Delegation: Dani Newcomb (first left) U.S. Embassy Philippines, Maurice Knight (fifth from left), Regional Director Pacific Islands Office in Port Moresby, and U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Peter Ganser (third from right) and representatives of Samoan non-governmental organization, METI.

*Photo by U.S. Embassy, Samoa*

change on a global scale. However, this year may signal the tipping point where there is finally enough global momentum to support real and tangible action necessary to address the multifaceted impacts of climate change.

One of the most important stops on the road to Paris for the island nations of the Pacific was the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) conference held in Samoa on September 1–4, 2014. This gathering focused on the unique challenges and vulnerabilities of island nations that are particularly sensitive to the impacts of rising sea levels and more severe storm surges.

Out of this conference came the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway—a document in which the global community recognizes that these nations present a “special case” when it comes to climate change and sustainable development and acknowledges the need for providing support to help them.

On September 23, 2014, global leaders—100 heads of state and government along with more than 800 business, finance, and civil society representatives—met at UN Headquarters in New York City for Climate Summit 2014. This summit set the stage for the Paris agreement which is expected to advance international climate action in five arenas: cutting emissions; mobilizing money and markets; reducing carbon; strengthening resilience; and mobilizing new coalitions.

During the summit, several Pacific Island nations took the opportunity to present statements on behalf of their countries, underscoring the need for action in order to protect and preserve the most vulnerable nations from the ravages of climate change.

Of course, Climate Summit 2014 was in many ways just a rest stop before the first major destination—the working conference held in Lima, Peru, from December 1–14, 2014.

*Continues on Page 7...*

**Deep Dive for More Details:**

**SIDS 2014:**  
[sids2014.org](http://sids2014.org)

**Climate Summit 2014:**  
[un.org/climatechange/](http://un.org/climatechange/)  
[climate-summit-2014](http://climate-summit-2014)

**Lima COP20:**  
[unfccc.int/meetings/lima\\_dec\\_2014/meeting/8141.php](http://unfccc.int/meetings/lima_dec_2014/meeting/8141.php)

**Paris COP 21:**  
[cop21.gouv.fr/en/cop21-cmpl1](http://cop21.gouv.fr/en/cop21-cmpl1)



## Year in Review: Our C-CAP Team in Action



### **PARIS** from Page 6...

Attended by representatives from more than 190 countries, the purpose of the Lima conference was to prepare a working draft of the 2015 Paris Agreement and establish groundrules for how each country will have input and contribute to the new agreement.

As part of the summary statements, the Minister of the Environment of Peru and the COP President emphasized that this conference "... **has given a new urgency towards fast tracking adaptation and building resilience across the developing world**—not least by strengthening the link to finance and the development of national adaptation plans" (emphasis added).

Looking down the road towards Paris next December, it is clear that all nations will need to work towards quantifying their contributions toward combating climate change.

For our part, C-CAP will continue to provide support for climate change adaptation and resilience building, and will look for opportunities to provide information and support to our Pacific Island partners at the national level, including sharing C-CAP methodologies, vulnerability mapping data, adaptation strategies, best practices, and lessons learned. While the Paris conference is not really the end of the road, it will surely be an important milestone toward achieving international cooperation to alleviate the impacts of climate change across the globe.

For further information about C-CAP and other USAID Pacific Islands projects visit [www.usaid.gov/pacific-islands](http://www.usaid.gov/pacific-islands)





**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# Around the Pacific

*USAID assistance in the Pacific region supports programs that mitigate the negative impacts of global climate change and environmental degradation. USAID has a growing portfolio of climate change-related projects. This regular feature of the C-CAP Newsletter captures some additional highlights from other USAID projects to provide readers a broad perspective of how USAID is supporting healthy environments and addressing climate change needs in the region.*

## USAID LEAF Advances Sustainable Development and Forest Management Efforts in Papua New Guinea

In 2014, the U.S. Agency for International Development's Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests program (USAID LEAF) contributed to national policy and planning arenas in Papua New Guinea (PNG) in close collaboration with government counterparts and local communities.

USAID LEAF brought together a wide spectrum of stakeholders to complete a sustainable development plan for PNG's Madang Province, the Madang Sustainable Development: Ridges-to-Reefs Gap and Priority Analysis, which was announced in February and was the result of nine months of participatory spatial planning. USAID LEAF collaborated with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Madang Provincial Government and the Madang Civil Society Forum on the plan, which serves as a multi-sectorial guiding framework to highlight priority areas and visualize the implications for future sustainable development decisions. The plan is the first of its kind at the provincial level in PNG. The Madang Governor has pledged more than \$550,000 over the next three years to support it.

In July, USAID LEAF partnered with the villages of Urumarav and Wage-dav in Madang Province to undertake



**SUCH GREAT HEIGHTS:** Scaling new heights to measure trees at the Papua New Guinea forest biomass measurement training.

*Photo by USAID LEAF*

PNG's first training on forest biomass measurement. More than 30 participants from government agencies, universities, and NGOs learned to measure biomass in the forests surrounding the villages using USAID LEAF's Standard Operating Procedures manual. The results will be integrated with emerging standards and protocols currently being developed under PNG's National Forest Inventory. A follow-up training, held in December, taught participants how to convert their field measurements into carbon stock estimates.

At the national level, USAID LEAF collaborated with the United Nations Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation, Papua New Guinea

Forestry Administration, Office of Climate Change and Development and Constitutional Law Reform Commission on a consultative review of forest-related policy and legislation. More than 120 stakeholders—including government agencies, NGOs, community representatives and private citizens—attended a national one day event held to present initial findings and garner feedback on the consultation—a critical next step to advance the country's efforts to address climate change through legal reforms and improved governance. Recommendations from the consultation are currently being integrated into national policy and legislation documents.



## ADAPTATION IN MOTION

CHECKING WITH C-CAP COMMUNITIES: FIJI, TUVALU, SAMOA, AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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

**In Fiji...** C-CAP partner communities of Daku and Vunisinu saw initial mobilization of construction on the rehabilitation of the floodgates which are being replaced by a new Tideflex technology. These important upgrades are made possible through the assistance of the U.S. Govern-



**TEAM WORK:** Local contractor (right) and C-CAP engineer (right) measures for installation of the new floodgate technology.  
*Photo by C-CAP*

ment through C-CAP. The innovative floodgate technology is designed to protect the low-lying villages during heavy rainfall and from salt intrusion caused by increasing storm surges and high king tides. The successful contractor was introduced to the community by the C-CAP team to initiate the working collaboration with the community.



**MAKING IT WORK:** C-CAP Country Mobilizer (right) and Contractor conduct an Operations and Maintenance Training.  
*Photo by C-CAP*

**In Papua New Guinea...** C-CAP completed 24 rainwater harvesting structures in the partner communities of Pari, Lealea, and Tubusereia. The infrastructure projects involved rehabilitation of existing infrastructure and stand-alone structures for rainwater catchment and storage. The project will bring a total of 216,000 liters of water storage capacity to these three communities.

**In Tuvalu...** The Infrastructure Priority Index (IPI) assessments for the communities of Tumaseu and Asau in Vaitupu, Tuvalu, were conducted by a C-CAP team. The IPI is a tool used to assist communities in identifying priority infrastructure that needs climate proofing. Through this process, the two communities were able to assess their current situation in relation to climate change impacts and determine

how they can become more resilient. The process also introduced the C-CAP project to the community for stronger partnership and working collaboration to address climate change issues.



**IN THE BAG:** Inspection and monitoring of sand bags.

*Photo by C-CAP*

**In Samoa...** A team from C-CAP conducted two inspections of the work completed by the contractor on the Manase coastal projection project. The project entails innovative geotextile sand bagging to create a durable and low-profile embankment protection system that preserves the tourist attraction of Manase coastline and beaches. The inspection was conducted on December 12 and the final inspection was on December 18. These inspections, conducted jointly with C-CAP and counterparts—Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Samoa Tourist Authority—ensure project compliance with standards and regulations and assesses community satisfaction.

stay informed

THE COASTAL  
COMMUNITY  
ADAPTATION PROJECT

C-CAP

The USAID/C-CAP Newsletter is a regular source of information on the implementation of C-CAP. To **SUBSCRIBE** send an email request to: [C-CAPcommunications@dai.com](mailto:C-CAPcommunications@dai.com)

Like and follow us for project updates and more:



[www.facebook.com/coastalcommunityadaptationproject](http://www.facebook.com/coastalcommunityadaptationproject)



[www.twitter.com/USAID\\_CCAP](http://www.twitter.com/USAID_CCAP)