

April Issue # 15 Climate Change Cook Islands Office of the Prime Minister

Rauti Para Tablet Training Project

The Rauti Para Tablet Training Project, funded by SPC EU GCCA: PSIS in partnership with the SRIC CC Adaptation Fund, continued on the islands of Aitutaki from 31 March - 4 April and Mauke from the 7 – 11 April 2014. Implementing agencies were Climate Change Cook Islands and the ICT divisions from the Office of the Prime Minister, Telecom Cook Islands, and Rauti Para (NGO).

An overwhelming response to both the tablet training and climate change presentations in Maori by Dr Teina Rongo were received from the people on these islands. There were twenty two people who completed the tablet training on Aitutaki with fifty two persons from Mauke both young and old.



This dedicated mama from Mauke is making her way to the Rauti Para tablet training 10 April 2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)

Responses from the questionnaire from both islands were consistent with the other islands previously surveyed. People noted that the fish numbers are down with smaller ones being caught and fish recruitment during the summer months are also less frequent. However, an increase in shark numbers was also reported from both Aitutaki and Mauke. The mango and the breadfruit trees are predominantly the most notable that are fruiting beyond the normal season. These responses will assist the Climate Change team with the establishment of quantitative indicators for monitoring purposes.

Dr Rongo's presentations on climate change in Maori was well received by the people to the extent that some people in Aitutaki attended all presentations in the three different villages.



Regular attendants at all the presentations Aitutaki 3 April 2014 (Photo by Celine Dyer)

It was inspiring to see how passionate people wanted to learn and know more about the state of their environment related to climate change.

Mangaia Island Puna Plans Launched

The Mangaia Puna Plan was launched in Mangaia on the 11th April and was attended by the Climate Change Director Ms Ana Tiraa and Pa Enua Director Mr Odi Tangianau. The document sets out two sets of plans. The first is an island plan establishing priorities for Mangaia's development to guide actions by the Island Council, Central Government, Development partners and NGOs. Secondly, six puna plans to guide actions by puna members and leaders. The Strengthening the Resilience of Island Communities (SRIC) programme supported the printing of the plans.



Kura Tauī'anga Reva

Opening of the redeveloped harbour of Mangaia

On Thursday 24th April, dignitaries from Rarotonga flew over to Mangaia for the opening of the harbour. The work on the redevelopment of the harbour was supported by the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project. The Mangaia harbour had been strengthened to a stronger and safer harbour that can withstand current and future climate related threats. Restoration of the harbour was coordinated by Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) and supported by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Landholdings and importantly the people of Mangaia.



Mr Mac Mokoroa of ICI and Mr Kosi Latu of SPREP (Photo provided by ICI)

Update from the SRIC CC Adaptation Fund

The Atiu, Aitutaki and Palmerston water tank project for 480 homes on the above islands will commence early next quarter. Total cost for this project is NZD\$620,000.00.

Planning has commenced on the community water tanks project for the islands of Atiu, Rakahanga,

Aitutaki, Mitiaro and Pukapuka. Total project cost is approximately NZD\$1,000,000.00.

More photos of the Rauti Para Project from Aitutaki and Mauke



Rauti Para participants of Aitutaki 31st March – 4April 2014



Senior Rauti Para participants of Mauke 7 -11April 2014

Kura – Kuriri

The Climate Change Team is continuing the video and questionnaire survey on Rarotonga to collect quantitative data to establish climate indicators.

The Rarotonga Coral Reef Survey funded by SPC GCCA; PSIS will kick start on Monday 12 May weather permitting. The project is led by Dr Teina Rongo, with team members Rob Matapo, Ben Tautu, Jacqui Evans and Ana Tiraa.

Till next time-

Kia Manuia!