

June Issue# 17 Climate Change Cook Islands Office of the Prime Minister

SRIC Water Tank Project- Pa Enuā

The SRIC Programme is gaining great momentum in the Pa Enuā. Earlier this year we witnessed the roll out of the Health vector bourn project and the arrival of water tanks bound for the islands of Palmerston, Atiu and Aitutaki. Ben Parakoti has been contracted as Project Manager to oversee the implementation of the water tanks on these islands. With the arrival of the bits and pieces needed to carry out this work, Ben is finally moving ahead with plans to commence installation work.



Pipes bound for the Pa Enuā water tank project June 2014 (Photo by Rob Matapo)

SRIC Programme manager Mr William Tuivaga is adamant that this work is completed before the forecasted El Nino season sets in. The initiative is to equip residents in the Pa Enuā with necessary tools in strengthening capacities to the adverse effects of climate change.



Water tanks bound for Atiu being loaded on the barge at Avatiu harbour June 2014 (Photo by Rob Matapo)

EU GIZ Adapting to Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (ACSE)

Renewable Energy Development and Climate Change Cook Islands, both divisions from the Office of the Prime Minister were attendees at the EU GIZ workshop in Fiji earlier this month. The EU GIZ ACSE is calling for concept notes from Pacific island countries on sustainable energy and climate change adaptation. Under this project administered by GIZ, 18.64 million euros was allocated amongst fifteen Pacific islands based on population size. Considering the population size of Cook Islands we are eligible to receive 400,000 euros. The objectives of the ACSE aims at enhancing sustainable livelihoods and strengthening capacities to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and enhancing energy security at the national and community level. Cook Islands are preparing two concept notes focusing on sustainable renewable energy development and water security for the Northern Cook Islands.

SPC EU GCCA: PSIS Annual conference- Niue

Delegations from nine Pacific Island countries met at the Millennium Hall in Alofi, Niue from 23 to 27 June, 2014 to share experiences, discuss lessons learnt thus far and plan the completion of nine national climate change adaptation projects. These activities are all part of the Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project funded with EUR 11.4 million by the European Union. The project started in 2012 and the implementation period has been extended from December 2014 to December 2015. The project has passed the half way mark and 47% of the total funding has been spent and committed. The team from the Cook Islands that attended this meeting was Dorothy Solomonā from the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR), and Ana Tiraa and Teina Rongo from the Climate Change division.

Kura Tauī'anga Reva



The team with their driver Tanga (second from right) at the Niue airport.



Dorothy Solomon presenting on the adaptation project for the Cook Islands.

While the team presented on lessons learned from three activities funded under this project in the Cook Islands (i.e., strengthen existing environmental monitoring for pearl farming in Manihiki with MMR, National Implementing Entity accreditation with MFEM, and Rauti Para training with CCCI), the team also presented their 5-minute video documentary covering the various project funded by SPC EU GCCA: PSIS in the Cook Islands. It was encouraging to learn that the Cook Islands are one of the two countries well on track to completing their adaptation projects. Interestingly, there was considerable interest expressed about the Rauti Para project. Of interest was the field trip planned for the meeting to view Niue's adaptation project, which was construction of a tank-moulding facility that would produce high quality rainwater harvesting tanks for residents. While the focus is to construct 5,000-L tanks, there are plans in the future to build different size tanks for other uses as well. The overall facility seemed simple both in terms of set up and operation, and perhaps the Cook Islands should consider

implementing something similar, especially with the high demand for water tanks in the outer islands.

The tank-moulding facility in Niue (photo by SPC GCCA: PSIS).



Kura Kuriri

The next Platform meeting will be on Tuesday 15 July at the Cook Islands National Council for Women (CINCW) headquarters at Tauae. From 10am to 12 noon, all are welcome.

Lagoon Day this year is at Punanganui Market on Thursday 17 to Friday 18 July. Please encourage colleagues, families and friends to visit as there will be lots of fun activities with competitions and great prizes to be won. This years theme is "Step Forward, Not Backward", "Takai ki Mua, Aere ki Mua".

Till next time....Kia Manuia!