

May Issue # 36 Climate Change Cook Islands Office of the Prime Minister

Climate Change Team in Mangaia

From the 4th to 6th of May the Climate Change Cook Islands SRIC team consisting of Mia Teaurima, Melina Tuiravakai and Ann-Marie Roi embarked on the island of Mangaia to introduce the SRIC programme to the new island council members. The Mangaia College students also presented their presentations from the Pa Enea Southern Group Senior Students workshop which received positive feedback from all those in attendance. As part of the Senior Students presentation to the Island Council, they asked for the support of the Island Council, Mayor, Government Reps and Traditional leaders for their project called, Mangaia's Eco-Tourism, 'Mangaia A Hidden Paradise'. They hope to have this proposed project completed within 7 months. The students also showcased four locations that they would like to develop, from Te Pa'ata Lookout, Maumaukura Lookout to Lake Tiriara with onsite visits with the SRIC-CC team. The Mangaian Youth Growers & Life Stock Association Incorporated, also met with the SRIC-CC team to show their farms that are managed and farmed by the youth of Mangaia under the management and mentorship of Makiroa Beniamina. The youth made up of boys and girls are successfully farming tomatoes, capsicum, pinapi, cabbage and broccoli. They are hoping to take their produce to market in Rarotonga. Rourumarū Papatua of Oneroa said "that this project has empowered me to have the ability and mentorship to support myself as a young woman farmer in Mangaia. I have learned how Climate Change can affect our agriculture industry and how we have to become more resilience." *By Mel Tuiravakai*



Mangaia students showing area for ecotourism development with SRIC Project Coordinator Mia Teaurima 5 May (Photo by Mel Tuiravakai)

SRIC CC Adaptation Fund Project Powering Ahead on Pukapuka Island



Community workers in Pukapuka preparing mold for culverts (Photo provided by Lucky Topetai)

The Pukapuka School Senior Students project is powering ahead to completion. According to the Pukapuka SRIC Focal Point Lucky Topetai, "the community took it upon themselves to provide and organise work groups to work on the project. There was a rotational roster amongst the three villages who took turns working on the site including women and young people". The project is to fence 1.2kilometres of taro planting land, including putting in culverts to drain the area during floods. "This area being fenced is the main food source for the people", says Pukapuka Mayor, Mr Levi Walewaoa. The Mayor of Pukapuka who recently attended the Climate Change Brilliant Resilient workshop was also very excited with the work and plans laid out for Pukapuka Island under the SRIC Adaptation Fund Programme. Next up for Pukapuka is the hydroponics, where materials have already started rolling out.

Tauhunu and Tukao village Hydroponics Completed!- SRIC CC Adaptation Fund

After experiencing delays at the starting of the project and with a few more finishing touches, the hydroponics is set to kick into operations. Congratulations to the villages of Tauhunu and Tukao, supervised by Mr Moto Finiasi the agriculture officer on Manihiki, the two villages will soon be serving fresh green salads on the dinner table. For the village of Tukao, this is the first hydroponics for them. SRIC Focal Point for Manihiki Mr John McCleod is currently working in the Climate Change office in Rarotonga to ensure that all materials for both hydroponics are

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completed before he travels back to continue the work there. "The hydroponics for the village of Tukao is long overdue", says John McCleod, "as previously, people has to cross the lagoon to purchase fresh green vegetables from Tauhunu village, or wait when they bring the unsold produce to Tukao, which is rare as everything gets sold on site". This is another successful SRIC CC Adaptation Fund Project.



Tukao hydroponics completed (Photo provided by John McCleod)

Brilliant Resilient Update 23 – 27 May



Day one and two on the agenda was the JNAP, other wise known as the Joint National Action Plan for Disaster Risk and Climate Change Adaptation.

The **Joint National Action Plan (JNAP) Validation Workshop** was held over the 23-24 May as part of the Brilliant Resilient National Seminar. The workshop sought to engage with stakeholders and achieve three main objectives:

1. To gain a clear understanding of JNAP II framework goals, outcomes and actions
 2. To improve understanding of roles and responsibilities in the implementation of JNAP II
 3. Advocacy - To further understand what is needed to encourage the community to use the framework
- Overall, the objectives were achieved and valuable insights gained in the process.

Other useful workshop feedback included the need to address slow onset climate events such as ocean acidification and changes in biodiversity, the need to institutionalise or strengthen the Science, Technology and Research capacity, the gaps in the Mental Health

and the capacity to manage post traumatic stress, policy gaps in nutrient retention systems and more. It was a successful and worthwhile workshop for all involved.



Anne Herman facilitating group breakouts 24 May (Photo by Ewan Cameron)

Next steps

The next step in the JNAP II development process will be to establish a technical working group (TWG) to assist in strengthening the climate change adaptation considerations within the document. The origins of the JNAP have resulted in a disaster focused document, the TWG will seek to balance the interests of both Climate Change Cook Islands (CCCI) and Emergency Management Cook Islands (EMCI). The aim is for the draft JNAP to be circulated for stakeholder consultation by the end of month - June 2016. **By Anne Herman-Fua.**



Group photo of participants 24 May (Photo by Mel Tuiravakai)

On day three, the 3rd National Communications Inception Workshop kicked in with over sixty people in attendance. The purpose of the event was to discuss the production of the Third National Communications report with a view to establishing six working groups. The keynote address by Tou Ariki Kaumaiti Nui stressed the national focus and practical realities of climate change. Mr Conrado Heruela (UNEP) spoke on the National Communications from an international perspective and Patricia Tuara Demmke (National Project Coordinator) spoke from a Cook Islands perspective. Presentations on climate change research were provided on climate change scenarios (Director of Meteorological Office, Arona Ngari); greenhouse gas inventory (Climate Change Adviser, Dr Teina Rongo); vulnerability assessment and

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adaptation (Senior Environment Officer, Mii Matamaki); and mitigation through renewable energy (Director of Renewable Energy Development, Tangi Tereapii). Working Groups met to discuss the Terms of Reference in the six areas of greenhouse gas inventory; vulnerability and adaptation; mitigation analysis; environmentally sound technologies; research and systematic observation; and education, training and public awareness, information and networking and capacity building. The Working Groups used the information provided in the presentations to critique the TORs and briefly discuss the work plan.



Working group sessions 25 May (Photo by Ana Tiraa)

As an inception workshop the event was successful in raising awareness of National Communications; the importance of engaging the community when collecting data on climate change impacts and actions. Feedback from participants was positive with many eager to be part of the Working Groups. Participants understood that the document is a national dialogue amongst stakeholders, and a global dialogue between the Cook Islands and the UNFCCC. The next steps include finalisation of Working Groups in terms of members and roles; as well as the finalisation of the Work Plan. **By Patricia Tuara-Demmke**



Raising Public Awareness on the Green Climate Fund

On the side line of the Brilliant Resilient Seminar, the Climate Change Cook Islands (CCCI) division held a one-day discussion with the public on Thursday 26 May to inform and raise the awareness amongst those in attendance of the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The forum shared the objective of the GCF to assist countries like the Cook Islands create a paradigm shift towards a low-emissions, climate resilient economy. The discussion and interaction between the GCF team and participants sparked interest throughout the day with questions and group work provided by participants from various areas of the community. 'This will not be the only opportunity to find out information about the GCF, it is CCCI's intention to hold a number of discussions with stakeholders in the coming months following this seminar, the office will be in touch with key persons within the community to arrange for follow-up discussions, Ana Tiraa, Director, Climate Change Cook Islands.' **By Ewan Cameron**



Break out groups at the GCF workshop 26 May (Photo by Ana Tiraa)



In country GCF team of Christina Kauvai and Ewan Cameron with Regional Advisor Coral Pasisi from Niue (Photo by Ana Tiraa)

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More photos from the Brilliant Resilient Workshop 23 – 27 May 2016



Youth representative Exceive Papa of Mauke School with Coral Pasisi from Niue (Photo by Ana Tiraā)



Some of the participants enjoying the workshop (Photo by Ana Tiraā)



Opening session of the Brilliant Resilient Workshop

Rakahanga Students School Project Report -SRIC CC Adaptation Fund

The construction of culverts for the causeway project commenced on May 23rd 2016, however, only 2 culverts can be constructed per week. The reason being was that the materials supplied was only for 1 culvert, therefore only 1 culvert can be constructed and left to dry for 2 days and the mould dismantled on the 3rd day and construction proceeds on the 2nd culvert. To date, only 3 culverts have been made with the 4th put on hold due to heavy downpours.



Solution : Install large culverts to improve drainage
Red boxes indicate where the culverts will be placed at the mouth of the pond on Rakahanga.

The installation of outlets (3) on the 180 – 200 mtr causeway is to ensure that rising waters within the 10 – 12 acre fish pond is drained out during heavy downpours and/or the inflow of fresh sea water into the pond during dry seasons. To date, various species of fish such as tilapia, tuna (eels), barracudas, milk fish, bone fish and many more are found in the fish pond. With the support of the Rakahanga Island Govt and the community as a whole, of the causeway project, all Administration male employees are deployed on the project.

In consideration of the impact of Climate Change today, the causeway project can and will be of benefit to the community as a whole especially in times of disasters.



Rakahanga senior students with teacher who proposed the above project at the Northern Students Workshop 27-31 July 2015

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Kura – Kuriri

Teina Rongo is off to attend the STAR Conference in Fiji from 6 – 10 June

Melina Tuiravakai is off to Fiji to attend the Negotiations Workshop Pacific women from 6 – 10 June, hosted by SPREP and Australia Aid

The Raurau Akamatutu (Basket of Resilience) Workshop, is to capture our traditional knowledge and practices in order to link it with climate science and technology to develop novel adaptation practices in the households. The first workshop will be held on Mangaia from the 27 – 30th June.

The Marorotu workshop aims to reintroduce the traditional practice to fishermen of Mauke and Atiu, reviving sustainable fishing practices. The workshop is on Mitiaro Island from 11 – 15 July 2016.

A Climate Change Negotiations Workshop to train future negotiators and those attending COP22 will be held 1 – 5th August, anyone interested to contact the Climate Change office.

The next Platform meeting is scheduled for Thursday 16th June at the Vainetini Headquarters in Tauae, from 10 – 12noon with light lunch. All are welcome! Hope to see you there

More photos from the Pa Enea SRIC CC Adaptation Fund Projects under UNDP Samoa Office

Water tanks installed for the hydroponics, Tukao village 29May



Tukao Hydroponics 29 May



Men on Pukapuka churning cement to construct the moulds for the culverts to drain flood waters from the taro plantations 27 May 2016



Taro plantations in Pukapuka, the staple root diet for the people

Till Next Time – Kia Manuia!