

June Issue # 5 2013 Climate Change Cook Islands

USP EU-GCCA Sub-Regional Training



Cook Islands delegates in group work at the workshop 20/6/2013 (Picture provided by Celine Dyer).

The Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development of the University of the South Pacific (USP) of Suva, Fiji in partnership with the European Union (EU) conducted a community training workshop at the headquarters of the Cook Islands National Council of Women, Rarotonga. Participants of the workshop came from the Polynesian triangle of; Samoa, Tonga, Niue and Cook Islands. The workshop was held from the 17-20 June with a total of 18 candidates. Participating candidates came from varying backgrounds particularly from villages and small islands. The purpose of the workshop was to train community representatives to build capacity to assist with the development of climate change adaptation plans for their respective communities. In doing so, the objective is to strengthen communication skills in delivering appropriate messages to the community using relevant communication tools, to facilitate discussions on adaptation, disaster risk management and the integration of these into action plans for the communities or islands. Workshop delivery method was through presentations and group work. Day 1 looked at communication and communication tools, where each country group was asked to identify the most appropriate and relevant method and tool for delivering messages and communicating with their respective communities. It was interesting to note that some small villages in Savaii, Samoa, still use

traditional means of communicating in their village. It was notable across the islands the important role of churches in conveying messages to the people. On the second day the topics covered were monitoring and evaluation and vulnerability assessment. Island groups were asked to draw a map of their village or island and map out the infrastructure with useful and important features of their village or island. After this exercise each group presented back to the workshop. There were areas of commonality that were highlighted such as coastal erosion, agriculture and water. On the third day, the groups continued working on their projects and mapped out the history of worst disasters that struck their community. From this exercise they were able to identify the vulnerable areas of their respective communities. The fourth day saw participants identify food vulnerability and come up with local solutions to mitigate the problems. It was noted that in some areas the communities can do things themselves to adapt to climate change, given they have the necessary tools. Hopefully, on return to their designations participants will be able to contribute to the strengthening the resilience of their communities against climate change.

Disaster Risk Reduction Training Course



Participants at the training held at the Edgewater Resort 19-20 June (Picture provided by Celine Dyer).

Wednesday 19 June saw the inaugural of the disaster risk reduction training course offered by the Pacific Disaster Risk Training Programme. This is a three day training workshop sponsored by SPC, The Asia Foundation and USAid which was hosted by the Office of the Prime Minister's Emergency Management Cook Islands (EMCI) division. Purpose of the course is to familiarise participants with the rationale and principles of risk reduction. The course is tailored to the Pacific way of doing things using

examples from around the region. It is expected that at the end of the training, participants will have an understanding of the multi-disciplinary nature of disaster risk reduction, its crucial role in adapting to climate change and be able to identify ways to implement DRR principals in their day to day work and organisations. The course is for those who are involved or potentially in the development and implementation and delivery of risk reduction programmes at national, island and community levels. Those who took part in the training workshop came from the Ministry of Health, Red Cross, Meteorological Office, Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning, EMCI and Climate Change from the Office of the Prime Minister.

Koutu Nui Presentation

Climate Change office was invited to give a presentation at the Koutu Nui (House of the Minor Chiefs) annual general meeting on Wednesday 19 June. Dr Teina Rongo our Climate Change Advisor and William Tuivaga the SRIC Programme Manager took advantage of this opportunity to share with our traditional leaders about climate change and the work being done in the Pa Enea to assist the people to adapt to climate change through the use of traditional and local knowledge with the support of science. There was a lot of positive feedback from the Koutu Nui, particularly the scientific aspect of climate change that was explained in Maori by Dr Teina Rongo.

Mayor's Forum



Mayors with Executive Officers from the Pa Enea at the workshop 17-21 June 2013 (Picture provided by Celine Dyer).

Mayors and Executive Officers from the Pa Enea congregated on Rarotonga from the 17-21 June to undertake a familiarisation workshop with the new

Pa Enea Governance Act 2013. This opportunity also served as an induction program for the newly appointed Executive Officers to the Pa Enea. Mr William Tuivaga Programme Manager of the SRIC CC Adaptation Fund was invited to speak to the workshop in which he explained the concepts of the SRIC CC programme and the expectations from each of the Pa Enea. He emphasised the need for the Mayors with the Island Councils to work together with the recently trained Focal Points on each of their respective islands in developing their island plans including projects under the small grants programme of the SRIC CC Adaptation Fund.

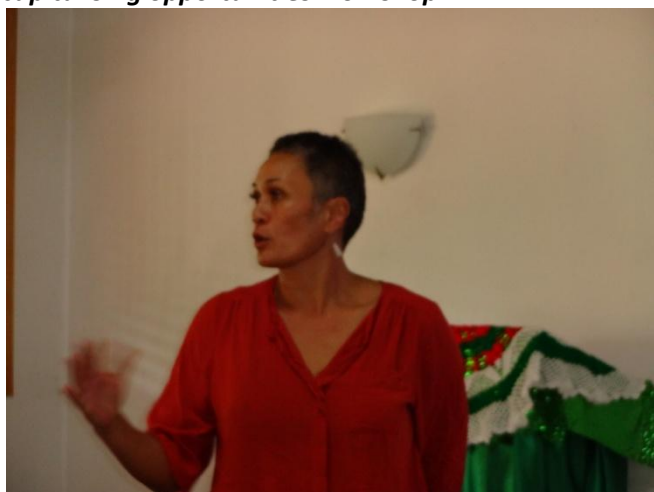
Disaster Evacuation Workshop- Red Cross, Tupapa



Participants at the Disaster Evacuation workshop- Red Cross 24-25 June 2013 (Picture provided by Celine Dyer).

The Disaster Evacuation workshop is the second phase of the Disaster Risk Reduction workshop previously held last week. In this instance participants were introduced to the principles of safety evacuation in times of disaster.

Priority Adaptations to Climate Change for fisheries and aquaculture in Cook Islands: Reducing risks and capitalising opportunities workshop.



Ana Tiraa Director of Climate Change in action at the New Hope Church 26 June 2013 (Picture provided by Celine Dyer).

The Climate Change office was invited to do two presentations at this workshop. The first was communicating the concepts of climate change to communities delivered by Dr Teina Rongo and Celine Dyer. Ana Tiraa talked on the integration of climate change and disaster risk policies.

National Strategic Framework for the Environment 2013 – 2017.

This month ended with the consultation on the National Strategic Action Framework for the Environment 2013-2017 which was held on Thursday 27 June at the AOG Church Hall, Takuvaine. Ana Tiraa and Celine Dyer attended this consultation.

Kura-Kuriri

Eimoana Taia reported from Mauke that she has secured office space for herself including internet access allocated to her by the Mayor. She is very grateful for the support from the Mayor. (Eimoana is the SRIC CC Focal Point for Mauke Island).

Dr Teina Rongo, Celine Dyer and Mii Matamaki will be attending the regional climate change platform meeting in Nadi, Fiji from the 3-5 July 2013.

Charles Carlson, Arona Ngari, Nga Jesse, Celine Dyer will attend the Joint Meeting of the Pacific Platform

for Disaster Risk Management in Nadi, Fiji from the 3-11 July 2013.

Ana Tiraa, Dr Teina Rongo, Robert Matapo, Vaine Wichman, William Tuivaga, Odi Tangianau, Haine from UNDP will be travelling to the Pa Enea Tokerau from the 10-20 July 2013.

More photos from the workshops



Disaster Risk Training at Edgewater Resort



Participants at the Disaster Evacuation workshop, Red Cross 24-25 June 2013.

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