

## October Issue # 32 Climate Change Cook Islands Office of the Prime Minister

### ***NIE Submission for accreditation to Adaptation Fund (news release by MFEM)***

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) is pleased to announce that it has formally responded to feedback given from the Adaptation Fund panel on its original National Implementing Entity (NIE) submission. This latest submission shows growing evidence of MFEM's strides to implement internationally recognised systems in key areas like financial management, procurement and activity management, taking the journey to accreditation one step closer to a reality. Minister of Finance the Honourable Mark Brown noted that "in the context of no Pacific Island countries having yet gained NIE status, the Cook Islands Government can be very proud of its achievements to date".

One of the significant achievements highlighted in the NIE submission includes the endorsement of Te Tarai Vaka as the national activity management system for all of government. This new system was introduced in draft back in December 2014 and has recently been finalised and made accessible via the MFEM website ([www.mfem.gov.ck](http://www.mfem.gov.ck)). The system outlines policies, processes and templates related to managing government and donor funded priorities in a transparent and accountable way. Of particular note is the introduction of a Social and Environmental Safeguards Policy and Guidelines which aims for sustainable development and resilient communities through managing potential adverse impacts to the environment and communities ensuring a minimum 'do-no-harm' approach.

Minister Brown outlined that "considering the Cook Islands is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), extremely vulnerable to current and future threats of climate change, it would be a great achievement locally, regionally, and internationally for MFEM to gain accreditation".

The ultimate benefits of successful accreditation include:

- direct access by the Cook Islands to global climate change funds;
- beneficial learning through building institutional capacities;
- strengthening relevant policies, systems, processes, documentation and examples of good practice;
- defining processes that may already be working and improving others helps support the achievement of better development outcomes;
- building confidence of development partners in national systems and processes;
- continuing to invest in building existing country systems and capacity whilst driving national priorities with retained funds through direct access; and
- assisting to better position the Cook Islands, both in the Pacific region and globally.

### ***Log Frame Approach Proposal Writing***



***Participants at the opening of the workshop 19Oct***

The workshop kicked off to a good start with a total of twenty two participants mainly from community groups, non-government organisations, individuals and from the Pa Enua. In the course of the training, participants learned to develop a proposal using the log frame approach, which entailed working in groups thus promoting community collaboration and ownership of projects.

Consultants Martin and Damien spend two weeks in Rarotonga where they conducted the group workshop in the first week, and a one on one in the second week. This approach enabled civil society to access expertise advice and to work and expand on their ideas thus building their confidence in proposal writing, furthermore, increasing the pool of proposal writers in country. According to the consultants, they

## Kura Tau'i'anga Reva

were heavily booked on the last two days and were happy they could assist with community organisations put their thoughts into perspective. The workshop was funded by the SRIC CC as a follow up from the 2013 workshop.



*Participants first day of the workshop*



*Damien Sweeney and Martin Pritchard LFA consultants*

### *Ridge to Reef Inception Workshop*



*William Tuivaga giving a presentation on SRIC experiences 20Oct*

William Tuivaga from SRIC CC shared some valuable experiences and lessons learnt from the SRICC Programme with participants at the R2R workshop. Over 40 participants were at the workshop mainly from the southern Pa Enua, NGOs and community groups on Rarotonga. Those who attended the workshop commented positively about the workshop. Congratulations to the NES team for a job well done.

### *Lagoon Day 22 - 23October*



*Novelty ideas from the school and community displays (Photo by Celine Dyer)*



*Banana trunks with egg shells to grow seedlings(Photos by Celine Dyer)*

Some interesting ideas from the displays above include using banana trunks to grow seedlings and even to plant herbs. Keeping it green all the way!



## Kura Tau'i'anga Reva



*Students very much in touch with their environment (Photo by Celine Dyer)*



*Nikao School focused their display on corals*



*Dr Rongo talking on climate variability (Photo by Celine Dyer)*

This year's lagoon day was different from previous times where most displays were by government and environmental organisations. Somehow this year's displays with the most interesting and novelty presentations and ideas came from the schools who exhibited creativity and

entrepreneurship that caught public attention. It was sad to observe that not many of our local people turned up to appreciate the work of their kids who put in lots of effort and thinking behind their displays. Our climate change team focussed on talking about climate variability in the Cook Islands and ensuring that the children go away with a take home message they can confidently share with their households.

### *Techelle Punua SRIC CC Focal Point for Atiu*



*Techell Punua SRIC Focal Point for Atiu 20 Oct (Photo by Celine Dyer)*

Techell Punua was here to attend the log frame workshop and also to be trained in her role as the SRIC CC Focal Point for Atiu. Techell is hoping to push for tourism low carbon development projects in Atiu.

### *Shoko Tanemoto from UNDP Fiji*



*Shoko meeting with Odi and Willie 10Oct 2015 (Photo by Celine Dyer)*



## Kura Tau'i'anga Reva

Shoko Tanemoto from UNDP Fiji office spent a few days with the SRIC team to assist with preparations for the upcoming midterm review.

### ***Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)***

As a signatory to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Cook Islands is obliged to carry out the decisions under the convention to meet the goals of the UNFCCC. In this regard, all Parties to the UNFCCC have agreed in the Lima call for Climate Action (Decision 1/CP20) to develop and communicate to the Convention Secretariat before 1st October their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). INDCs are a country's voluntary contribution to the global agreement which will be determined at the Conference of the Parties 21 (COP21) in Paris this year. It indicates what countries bring to the table to contribute to the overall global effort to reduce green house gas (GHG) emissions.

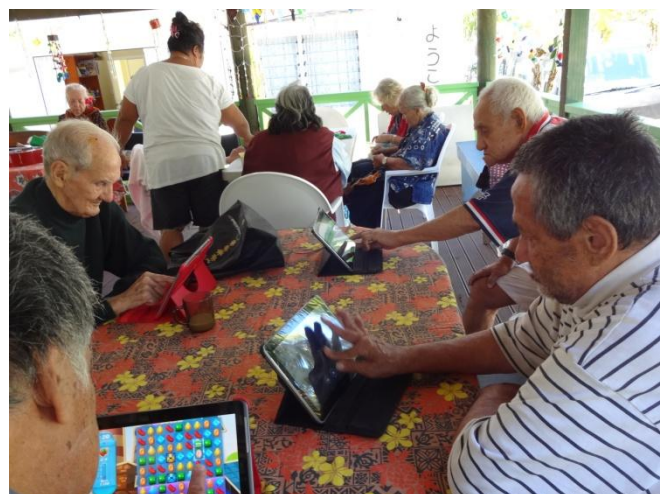
In this context the climate change team set to task to put together our INDCs. The Cook Islands INDCs was derived from government policies and current actions emphasizing evidence based contributions to the UNFCCC global effort. Considering that government's goal on renewable energy transformation is on target for 2020, our INDCs accentuates on post 2020 actions to attract potential external support. Likewise, governments efforts to continue its adaptation measures to cover all of Cook Islands is conditional on receiving external support.

The main message of the INDCs is that despite our special circumstances, the Cook Islands has already taken huge steps towards Green House Gas reduction and climate resilience. However, given external support from developed countries the Cook Islands anticipates on delivering more to the global effort.

INDCs are not a legally binding document, rather a work in progress where countries can make amendments up to 2020.

### ***Reaching out to our communities***

The Rauti Para under SRIC project in partnership with the ICT division of the Office of the Prime Minister has extended its tablet training program to our mental health centre 'Te Kainga'.



***Tablet training session at Te Kainga (Photos by Celine Dyer)***

**Till next time...KIA MANUIA!**