

## September Issue #8 2013 Climate Change Cook Islands Office of the Prime Minister

### Mitiaro Marine Park Consultation 4 -6 September 2013



*Mitiaro community gathered for the marine park consultation in Mitiaro Community Hall 4-6 Sept 2013 (Picture by Celine Dyer)*

The Mitiaro people recently hosted the marine park consultation team of eight lead by the Kaumaiti Nui Tou Ariki assisted by the paramount Ariki of Takitumu, Kainuku Ariki. Koutu Nui was represented by Terea Matai'apo in place of President Turi Matai'apo. Other members of the team included Seabed Mineral Authority, Office of the Prime Minister and Te Ipukarea Society. The team arrived Mitiaro on Wednesday morning 4<sup>th</sup> Sept and after the formalities the team launched into the first community consultation.



*The Marine Park Consultation team on arrival from Mitiaro on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 2013 (Picture by Alex Herman)*

On day two, the team visited the school particularly to introduce the SeaSketch program to the older students. Whilst Kevin Iro conducted the

training for the older students on SeaSketch, the younger students watched Climate Crab an animated version of climate change. The school was presented with the Climate Crab and the SPC EUGCCA PSIS dvds.



*Mitiaro school students welcomed the Marine Park Consultation Team 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2013 (Picture by Celine Dyer)*

On the last day the final community consultation was held in the Mitiaro Community Hall. Those present at the meeting by unanimous agreement gave support to the following;

- The Cook Islands marine park
- Wants the existing boundary of 12 nautical miles around Mitiaro to be extended to 50 miles with another 50 miles as a buffer zone
- Support seabed mining given that more research is carried out to ensure that there is no harm to the marine life and the environment.
- Mitiaro also wants to be engaged in the seabed mining process and to be notified of any activities that occur within or will affect their jurisdiction.
- That the Aronga Mana continue to be part of the seabed mining process as representatives of the people irrespective of changes in government.
- Wants to see the ban of all purse seining activities in Cook Islands waters and for government not to renew any purse seining contracts or issue new licenses.
- For government to launch an investigation into the existing arrangements with the US purse seining boats in the Northern Cooks waters and if possible to terminate those contract.

## Kura Tauui'anga Reva

- Would like to ban all foreign fishing boats in Cook Islands waters and government not to renew or issue any more fishing licenses to foreign interests.
- To reserve Cook Islands waters only to be fished by Cook Islands fishing boats and fishermen.
- To preserve our resources for our future generations.



*People of Mitiaro at the consultation in the Mitiaro Community Hall 4-6Sept 2013 (Picture by Celine Dyer)*

### **Training for Geo-Portal Disaster Risk Management**

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and Emergency Management Cook Islands (EMCI) jointly organized a sub-regional training workshop on the Geo-DRM System for Pacific countries in Rarotonga. The recent workshop was held in collaboration with the Red Cross Society. The Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, as well as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community Applied Geoscience and Technology Division took part in the training workshop. Key government ministries like Infrastructure and Planning, Marine, NES, MET, Airport Authority, TAU, Health, INTAFF and Red Cross were also involved in the workshop and contributed to the Geo Portal. Director of Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction at UNESCAP, Dr Shamika Sirimanne was present at the workshop formally opened by the Speaker of the House Niki Rattle.

The key objectives of the training workshops were to strengthen the capacity of the Pacific countries on disaster risk reduction through the establishment of

Geo-Portal on Disaster Risk Management (DRM). In practice, the Geo-portal DRM for Cook Islands was installed in the server of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning (MOIP) as a test trial.

The workshop contributes to improving awareness and knowledge on Geo-portal on DRM as well as strengthening the technical capacity of participants of the Pacific Islands on the establishment of geo-portal and the basic use of data for disaster risk assessment and management in the Pacific region. Geo-portal on DRM is the integrated platform for DRM in Cook Islands by generating, managing and sharing the geo-spatial data, information and knowledge related to disaster management. The geo-portal on DRM is expected to contribute to addressing the disaster management in Cook Islands including the prediction and assessment of disasters. "This Geo-Portal is crucial to our operation by having a database for both preparedness and response", says Carlson.



*Participants at the Geo-portal training workshop for Disaster Risk Management 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Sept (Picture by Charles Carlson)*

The workshop is the first practical cooperation in the area of Geo-portal on DRM between UNESCAP and Cook Islands, as well as the Pacific countries to enhance the capacity of the Pacific countries on disaster risk reduction through establishment of networked geo-portal on DRM in the region.

## **Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Small Island Developing States**



**Participants at the workshop 7-14 Sept 2013 (Picture by Robert Matapo)**

From the 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2013, Robert Matapo and Teariki Rongo travelled to Singapore to attend a workshop jointly sponsored by Singapore Cooperation and the Japan International Cooperation Agency. The workshop was conducted by Singapore Environment Institute National Environment Agency. The objective of the course was to gain an appreciation of Singapore's and Japan's experiences in Sustainable development and climate change, with a focus on the adaptation strategies and measures aimed at addressing the challenges and impacts of climate change.



**Water presentation at the Marine Barrage (Singapore's dam across its main river mouth before it exits into the sea) (Picture by Robert Matapo)**

Topics covered at the workshop include; Climate Change – Science and Regional Predictions, Impacts and the Role of cities, Climate Change and Biodiversity, Integrated Coastal Management, Storm water Management, Energy Efficiency, Vector-Borne Diseases and Environmentally Sustainable Transport.



**Artificial trees in the Garden in the City. Built to simulate real trees (Picture by Robert Matapo)**

The training also included field trips where participants were able to see firsthand the projects being implemented in Singapore's adaptation plans.



**NeWater, one of 4 facilities, that converts waste water into drinking water (Picture by Robert Matapo)**

## **UNFCCC Expert meeting on Loss & Damage 12 -14<sup>th</sup> Sept 2013**

At the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Parties requested the UNFCCC secretariat to organize an expert meeting relating to loss and damage. The expert meeting considered future needs, including capacity needs associated with possible approaches to address slow onset events. The meeting looked at:

- 1) future needs in enabling developing countries to enhance action to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts resulting from slow onset events, and
- 2) possible ways in which the Convention could potentially address these needs.

The meeting comprised of technical experts and

negotiators. The Cook Islands was represented by Ana Tiraa, Director of Climate Change.

### ***Global Training workshop on the preparation of biennial update reports (BURs) 16-18 September 2013***

The objectives of the workshop were to provide technical support to non-Annex 1 Parties on how to report information in the BURs, pursuant to annex 111 to decision 2/CP.17. by using training materials developed by Consultative Group of Experts (CGE). It was also designed to receive feedback on the training materials and technical content with the view to ensuring that the training materials respond effectively to the needs of non-Annex 1 Parties.

BURs stands for biennial update reports in the effort to enhance reporting in national communications and inventories from non-Annex 1 Parties on mitigation actions and their effects and support received throughout the project. It is also designed as an input to the process through international consultation and analysis aimed at increasing transparency of mitigation actions and their effects. In essence it is basically an updated report on national communications of GHG inventories and mitigation actions.

As signatories to the UNFCCC convention, Cook Islands is obliged to deliver on BURs. However, since we fall under the category of SIDS we are accorded the flexibility under 2/CP.17. to determine our own timeline and how frequent we wish to submit a report as opposed to the December 2014 deadline and two year frequency submission.

### ***Kura-Kuriri***

The STAR conference kicks off at the Edgewater Resort on Saturday morning 5<sup>th</sup> October 2013. This is a regional meeting on science, technology and resources.

There will be a public presentation of the studies done earlier this year on the Avarua cyclone storm surge impacts. This will be held at the USP on Thursday 10 October at 12noon by Dr Matt Blacka from the University of New South Wales, Australia. All are welcome!!

Our team to COP19 are;

Ana Tiraa Director of Climate Change

Mii Matamaki of National Environment Services

Amelia Fukofuka of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration

Lavinia Tama of Ministry of Finance and Economic Management

We are also happy to welcome Michelle Forster to our full time staff on the SRIC programme.

***Thank you to all who has contributed to this newsletter.***

