

September Issue # 39  
Climate Change Cook Islands  
Office of the Prime Minister

***Ratifying the Paris Agreement***

On the 1<sup>st</sup> September, the Cook Islands deposited its instrument of ratification of the Paris Agreement to the UNFCCC secretariat. The Paris Agreement is an International Treaty, however, it becomes legally binding when the elements of "entry into force" has been met. This constitutes of the ratification by at least 55 countries and by countries representing at least 55 per cent of global green house gas emissions. Thirty days after this has been satisfied, all countries who have ratified are legally bound to the agreement. To date, 60 countries have ratified, totaling 47.78% global ghg emissions covered, however, until the 55% is reached will the 30 days countdown begin. Given that only 7.22 per cent is required, it is possible that the Paris Agreement will enter into force by the end of 2016.

'As your country has communicated an INDC prior to joining the agreement and deposited an instrument of ratification, your country is considered to have satisfied the provisions of the above mentioned paragraph. This information has been made public in webpage on the UNFCCC website under the following link:

[http://unfccc.int/focus/ndc\\_registry/items/9433.php](http://unfccc.int/focus/ndc_registry/items/9433.php)

The secretariat would also like to inform you that your INDC will be uploaded as your first NDC in the interim NDC registry, which can be accessed under the following link :

<http://www4.unfccc.int/ndcregistry/Pages/Home.aspx>

***Pukapuka Island blesses two boats 9 Sept 2016***



***SRIC fishing boats for the youth fishing clubs on Pukapuka***

The two boats for the youth of Pukapuka will enable young start up families to fish for their families with the access fish to be sold to earn an income since there are no job opportunities other than government work on the island.

***Palmerston School Worm Project***

Palmerston SRIC-CC Project Update - Palmerston Island's Worm Farms Project for Lucky School has been installed and the Principal spent the time yesterday showcasing the project to the students.

This project will improve and increase the worm population, soil and growth of vegetable and fruits activity on the island of Palmerston through increased school and community participation and promoting healthy living with the growth of more vegetables.

The Worm Farms - Hungry Bins...another successful project of SRIC, UNDP funded by the Adaptation Fund.



***Palmerston students receiving instructions from their teacher on the worm farm.***



### ***Hydroponics for Pukapuka Island***



***Men on Pukapuka setting the foundation for the hydroponics.***

The Pukapuka hydroponics is placed at the Niua School presenting the ideal opportunity for the students to also learn about hydroponics.



Pukapuka is the second island in the North besides Manihiki that has been approved for hydroponics under the SRIC UNDP programme funded by the Adaptation Fund.

Previously there has been attempts by the Ministry of Agriculture to encourage households to engage in small home gardens. Whilst it has succeeded in some ways, the harsh weather conditions hasn't always been favourable for planting green vegetables which requires a lot of watering. Demand on water is always an issue for Pukapuka Island as it relies totally on rain water and the added pressures of climate change only exacerbates the situation.

At least with the hydroponics there is less pressure on the water capacity since the water is recycled.

### ***Nassau students into agriculture!***



Nassau students proudly displaying the work of their hands, a first for the island to have fresh green vegetables in abundance. Growing green vegetables transpired from the initial proposal submitted by the students to fence off a taro planting area whereby they were able to plant vegetables around the taro patches.



Earlier this month the students harvested their first crop of green vegetables and distributed it to each household on the island.

While most islands are building hydroponics, the Nassau school students proved that growing green vegetables the conventional way is still as effective and perhaps more nutritious and sustainable. They aim to harvest the next crop of cabbages, tomatoes, cucumbers, water melon and lettuce just in time for the Christmas festive season. Since the school has the only vegetable garden on the island, they also become the sole supplier of fresh vegetables on their island. This is another successful project by SRIC under the Adaptation Fund; building resilient communities through agriculture by providing fresh vegetables for a healthier and happy peoples.



### Platform Meeting 19 Sept

The second last platform meeting for climate change and disaster risk management was held at the vaine tini headquarters in Tauae. In all, about thirty people attended from government, NGOs and the community to listen to climate change and disaster risk project updates and new information exchange.



Lydia Sijp above spoke on the many projects currently being implemented under Emergency Management Cook Islands. All up EMCI has 23 projects running concurrently to the value of \$573, 762.00 for 2016-17 funded under the Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific (BSRP).



Elizabeth Munro from National Environment Services talked about the P3D modelling workshop that was held in Mangaia. This was a SRIC initiative funded by the Adaptation Fund. According to Liz, it was an amazing journey for those who participated in the workshop as it gave people ownership of the project knowing they build a model of their island with their own hands.



Imogen Ingram highlighted the adverse impacts of climate change to the release of POPs which has detrimental effects on the environment, human health and wild animals.



### Birdman George Mateariki receives prestigious award from renowned international IUCN



Birdman George was recognised for his expertise in Conservation of Nature with the recovery of endangered species on Atiu island. He was honoured



with an award at the IUCN international congress in Hawaii from 1-10 Sept. *(by April Le Mon)*

### **SRIC and NES P3D workshop in Mangaia**



The workshop brought together the community and school students of Mangaia Island to construct the model of their island pictured below. There were 67 participants at this workshop, which was an initiative of SRIC, funded by Adaptation Fund. Elizabeth Munro of National Environment Services and her team delivered the workshop.



Pictured here, the completed model of Mangaia Island which brought joy and pride to the participants who constructed the model. The next stage of the project will be completed by the people. They will write stories of

significant places on their island and attach these stories to the sites. Next island on the radial is Mauke. This is another successful project of SRIC funded by Adaptation Fund.

### **EMCI receives new device to aid data input**

The portable modem or mini server will assist Emergency Management Cook Islands with the collection and input of data in the Pa Enua particularly in field work where internet connection is unreliable.

The device was sponsored by the World Bank and the South Pacific Commission.



Pictured above is World Bank IT consultant Mana Etches presenting the device to EMCI Director, Charles Carlson.

### *Kura-Kuriri*

Naomi Patterson of Aitutaki was appointed as the SRIC Focal Point for Aitutaki. Congratulations! Naomi and welcome to the climate change team.

We farewell Patricia Tuara who has taken the position of UNDP country coordinator. Thank you Pat for the time and hard work you put into setting the next phase of the Nat Com project. We wish you well with your new position and congratulations from all of us.

The team is currently preparing for the world food day in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and BTIB on 14<sup>th</sup> October.

Ana Tiraa, Director of Climate Change is attending a GEF meeting in Fiji from 3-6 October.

Debbie Ave the SRIC Focal Point for Mangaia is currently undergoing training with the team in Rarotonga.

*Till next time – Kia Manui!*