

Grassroot Organizing and Community Engagement



Matai'a Ueta Jr. Faasili
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Presentation Outline

- Climate Justice
- Grassroot Initiatives
- Community involvement
- Examples and Case Studies
- Challenges and Opportunities
- Take home message



Climate Justice

Recognizing that Global warming/climate change affects everyone, but Small Island Development States (SIDS), including PICTs, are more severely affected than others. SIDS are of the least responsible for creating the problems.

Tuna Fisheries.

Disproportionate Burden



Grassroot initiatives for Climate Justice.

- Grassroot lead projects, campaigns or actions that aim to address climate change and promote climate justice.
- Involves local communities, organizations and individuals who are actively working at the grassroot level to mitigate the impacts of climate change, advocate for equitable solutions and empower local communities.



Role of Local Communities in Driving Change

- Involves examining the contributions, challenges and potential of local communities in initiating and implementing positive transformations within their own environment.
- Key aspects includes;
 - Empowerment and Ownership
 - Capacity Building
 - Collaboration and Networking
 - Advocacy



Example of Grassroot initiatives and community engagement

Youth groups, NGOs and Civil Societies are very active in the Pacific.

Supports grassroot initiatives on climate change.

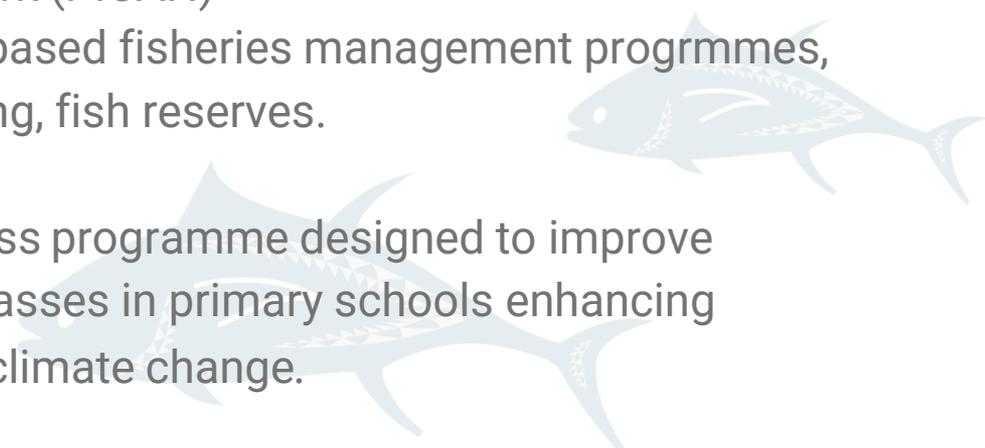
Includes;

- Tokelau Climate Warriors
- Tuvalu National Youth Council
- Youth Climate Action Network (YCAN)
- Pacific Islands Climate Action Network (PICAN)

Government programmes –community based fisheries management programmes, coral replanting, stock restocking, farming, fish reserves.

Guardians.

- An experiential environmental awareness programme designed to improve environmental literacy of year 7 and 8 classes in primary schools enhancing community resilience to the impacts of climate change.



Guardians

- Co-developed by NGO's, Youth Groups and Government entities.
- Build community awareness on the environment and impacts of climate change.
- 5 training modules, wastes, corals, fisheries, trees and voyaging.
- Target year 7-8 students.



Corals

- Look at coral polyps and coral reefs.
- Factors that threatens corals survival,
- Habitats for fish and invertebrates
- Need to conserve and protect corals



Wise Fisher

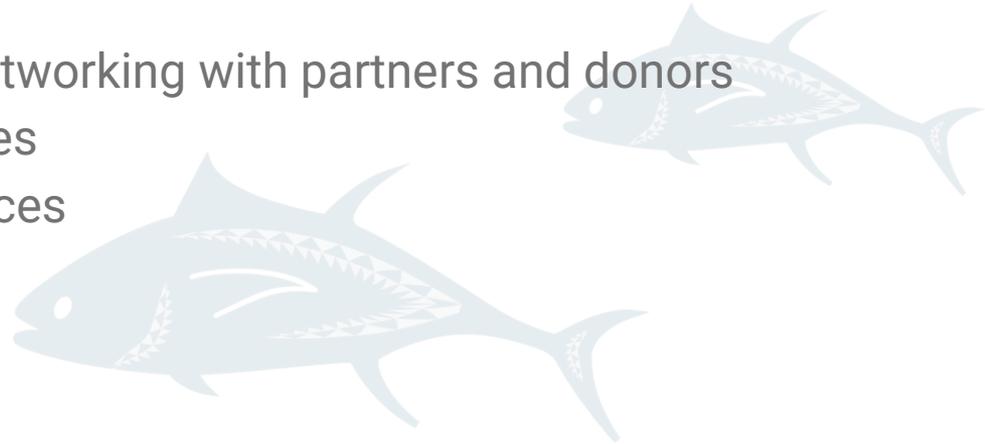
- Understanding of food web and ecological pyramid
- Basic principles and approaches to fisheries management.
- Impacts of unregulated fishing.
- Type of destructive fishing and impacts.



Challenges and Opportunities

- Resources, project funded,
- Many players doing the same thing, causes confusion.
- Community leadership and governances changes overtime,- different level of commitment
- Ownership and IP of project outputs and results – relates to donor requirements

- Opportunity to collaborate and networking with partners and donors
- Opportunity to review govt. policies
- Sharing of knowledge and resources
- Availability of base line data



Take-home Message

Grassroot Initiative and Community engagement

- Collaborative approach
- Proper channels for engagements
- Grassroot initiatives and community engagements should address the real issues affecting communities
- Know your partners



Thank You

