

PROJECT BRIEF

No 02 | 2020

Institutional Strengthening in Pacific Island Countries to Adapt to Climate Change (ISACC)

Project Highlights 2018



Fiji



FSM



Kiribati



Palau



Samoa



Solomon Islands



Tuvalu



Vanuatu



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique



PACIFIC ISLANDS
FORUM SECRETARIAT



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

SUMMARY

Institutional Strengthening in Pacific Island Countries to Adapt to Climate Change (ISACC) is a regional climate finance project that is implemented in **eight Pacific Island countries (PICs): Fiji; Federated States of Micronesia (FSM); Kiribati; Palau; Samoa; Solomon Islands; Tuvalu; and Vanuatu.** The project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and is implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) in partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

The primary objective of this project is to **strengthen the national institutional capacity of PICs to plan, coordinate and respond effectively to the adverse impacts of climate change and disaster risks.**

This objective will be achieved through three **Key Result Areas (KRAs)**, as outlined below.



KRA 1

Strengthened Institutional Frameworks and National Capacity

Integrated institutional frameworks and national capacity will be strengthened to support multi-sectoral approaches to climate change and disaster risks.



KRA 2

Enhanced Access to Finance

Access to new climate change finance will be enhanced through improved capacity, systems and tools at the national level.



KRA 3

Strengthened Regional Cooperation and Coordination

Regional cooperation and coordination will be strengthened through augmented national capacity delivered through shared learning to support PICs to address climate and disaster risks.



89 participants

trained in M&E

20 participants

trained in Certificate IV: Project Management Practice

Project Snapshots

4 national staff

recruited to support implementation of climate finance prioritise in FSM, Palau, Tuvalu and Solomon Islands



262 participants

12 workshops, consultations and trainings convened with 262 participants from across 5 PICs

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Restrictions on the project budget in 2018 posed a significant challenge to advancing initially planned national activities, including the finalisation of Letters of Agreement with four ISACC project countries. Nevertheless, a number of significant outputs were still achieved.



Letters of Agreement were finalised with four ISACC project countries (Palau; FSM; Tuvalu; Solomon Islands), and funding was dispersed to support delivery of national activities and recruitment of national staff to assist in the coordination of the ISACC project and progression of national climate change priorities.



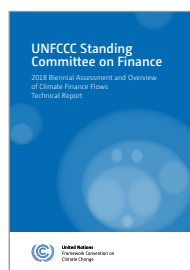
Trainings were conducted to support specific country needs and increase knowledge and understanding of climate change and disaster risk finance issues. Training included Monitoring and Evaluation for Climate Change and Disaster Resilience, developed by the ISACC project team in collaboration with SPC's Geoscience, Energy and Maritime (GEM) Division Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Adviser. Furthermore, Certificate IV in Project Management Practice was delivered by USP's Pacific Technical and Further Education (USP Pacific TAFE) in Tuvalu with the support of the ISACC project. By the end of 2018, an additional 262 people had been trained across five project countries.



Development of a climate finance tracking tool – the first of its kind in the Pacific – is currently underway. The prototype of the tracking tool was presented to government officials and other stakeholders in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands as a means to identify gaps and provide recommendations to help improve development of the tool.



Climate and disaster risk finance assessments continued. As of 2018, FSM was the ninth PIC to undertake such an assessment (the fourth assessment undertaken with ISACC project support). The Pacific Climate Change Finance Assessment Framework (PCCFAF) tool was recognised as a “good practice” tool in the 2018 Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows Technical Report, published by the UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance. Once climate change finance assessments have been conducted of all countries within the region, common challenges facing the region can be ascertained and outlined in an overall narrative.



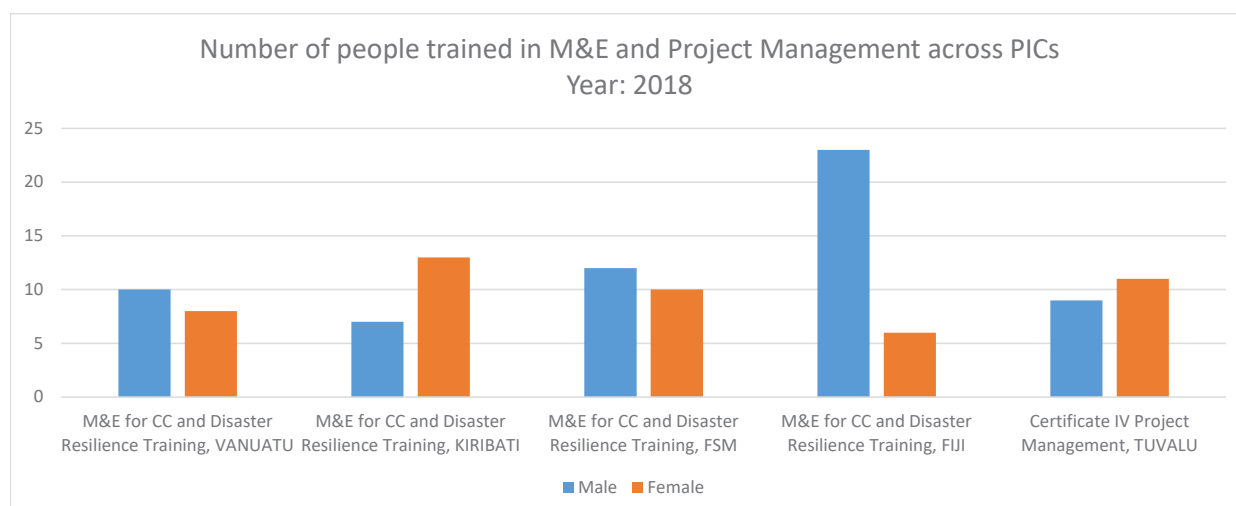
Front cover of the 2018 Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows Technical Report, published by the UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance



Regional information and knowledge management support was pursued in collaboration with other partners, through a variety of activities. The drafting of a business case for a regional Information and Knowledge Management Working Group (IKM WG) was one such activity. The main objective of the business case was to provide strategic guidance on options for the establishment of an IKM WG to support the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) Taskforce to implement the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific.



The second Pacific Climate Change Conference, held in Wellington, New Zealand, 21–23 February, provided an opportunity for the ISACC project team to share experiences and lessons learned on climate finance in the Pacific with other international agencies and the academic community.





"I enjoyed that different Ministries with different nature of work were brought together in one training and try to complete one project for many perspectives"

Ms. Vakacegu Qocatabua Ralulu,
Executive Officer (M&E)
Environment & Human Security,
Ministry of Defence and National
Security, Fiji



"This training is very important in Government collaboration with private sector and NGOs. It is important for me in my position"

Mr. Ismael H. Mikel, Executive
Director, Chuuk State Environment
Protection Agency, FSM



"The use of a single project proposal throughout the 5 days was excellent and it greatly assisted me in understanding the logical workflow of how M&E can be applied in the workplace"

Mr. Anare Leweniqila, Director,
National Disaster Management
Office, Fiji



"I think this is the best M&E training. We got to talk about project problems back home and what we think we can improve on"

Ms. Faith Siba, Project Manager for Integrated Water, Kosrae,
DECEM/KCSO, FSM



LESSONS LEARNED

- The ISACC project was designed to support national governments in strengthening their systems and processes to better access and manage climate change financing. The project aimed to achieve this, in part, through disbursement of project funding to the national government with the aim to demonstrate national capacity in the management of climate financing. Internal procurement challenges at SPC, coupled with funding limitations at USAID, meant that only three of the eight countries received a disbursement of funds. Similarly, national coordinator positions were reduced from eight to four funded positions. Nevertheless, experience from the ISACC project demonstrates that dedicated capacity in country enables activities to progress more effectively and positions created in consultation with national government priorities (rather than solely for a project) are more likely to be retained through national budgeting processes.
- Trainings that target country needs provide important capacity development for national stakeholders within the climate change field. Officers directly involved in project management, M&E, proposal development and other climate finance and adaptation related undertakings have reported positive feedback on the provision of such trainings and the need for such trainings at the national level. The training programmes and ongoing mentoring support have strengthened the national institutional capacity of PICs to plan, coordinate and respond effectively to the adverse impacts of climate change and disaster risk.
- Climate and disaster risk finance assessments have proven to be effective for governments to strengthen national institutions to better access and manage financial support. The assessments have also provided governments with roadmaps to assist in strengthening access to, and effective management of, international and domestic financial resources for climate change and disaster risk management. This is the first time such assessments have been undertaken at a national level, providing national governments with an important decision-making tool.
- Quantifying the amount of climate and disaster risk finance pledged, disbursed, and expended and managed within the region is important for tracking progress on support received and overall progress toward achieving low-carbon and resilient economies. Such information is also important for accountability, transparency and reporting purposes, particularly with regard to Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

The climate finance tracking tool will ensure climate finance flows into national systems are effectively captured, and information generated will inform important decision-making processes.

- Budget restrictions have caused cutbacks to a number of planned activities for the project as well as uncertainty with regard to the longevity of the project. Along with readily accessible climate change financing, PICs have consistently called for the predictability of funding. The project team has faced challenges in managing unpredictable financial flows, expectations of countries around work plans, and agreement on activities to be implemented. This has required strong working relationships and direct and timely communication with national governments and development partners, as well as internally within SPC.



The project results contribute to advancing discussions on SDG 13

INDICATOR: 13.a.1

Mobilised amount of US dollars per year starting in 2020 accountable toward the \$100 billion commitment

INDICATOR: 13.b.1

Number of least developed countries and small island developing states that are receiving specialised support, and amount of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change related planning and management, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalised communities

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

<https://gem.spc.int/projects/isacc> or
<https://www.spc.int/>