



Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

# Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project

## Tonga PACC one step ahead with socio-economic survey, target to identify climate change impact on water sector



Tonga's PACC Project completed a socio-economic survey report on the Hihifo Pilot Site making Tonga the lead member country to conduct a socio-economic survey component on its Pilot Site project.

PACC National Coordinator Mr. Paula Taufu says that in the last Technical Team meeting, its members pointed out that the first activity to be done on the Hihifo Pilot Site is to conduct a socio-economic survey to collect information about the current situation.

Director for Tonga Trust Mr. Sione Faka'osi lead the socio-economic survey team together with members of Tonga's PACC Technical Team. Four major assessment survey were also conduct by the Technical Team, include water distribution, V&A assessment and underground water monitoring

Ms. Lilieta Takau (PACC Technical Team Member) stated that the importance of conducting a socio-economic survey is to collect



PACC Survey team

information on the current situation and problems faced by the Pilot Community with regard to their water resources. She also stated that the survey questionnaires were designed to identify updated baseline socio-economic data of the Pilot Site.

Underground water monitoring survey, water distribution system survey and Vulnerability assessment were also conduct by the Technical Team

The survey team was selected from the six villages of the Pilot Site. Training and pilot testing were carried out by the enumerator and his team prior to commencing the fieldwork.

### Call for the first "Talanoa" with the PACC Community

On the 28th October, PACC Tonga called its first water committee meeting with the Hihifo Pilot Community. The committee comprised of village Town Officers and representatives from the Pilot Community.

National Coordinator Mr. Paula Taufu says that the idea of calling the PACC water committee meeting is to closely work with the community on the implementation of activities. He added that the idea of having this committee derived from the PACC community consultations. Pilot communities wished to be updated on activities to be implemented at the Pilot Site.

Ms. Tupeope Samani, Acting Director for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, delivered the opening remarks, reminding members of the PACC community water committee of the importance of actively participating in all activities.



PACC Water Committee members participate on the first meeting with the PACC PMU. The members of the PACC Water committee include all Town Officers and also representatives from community.

She said that identifying Hihifo to be the Pilot Site project was a decision made by the government after reviewing various reports and surveys on the susceptibility of the Hihifo area to the impacts of climate change.

The meeting included updating the community on activities already implemented by the project during

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*News Highlights for 2010*

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## PACC Community water committee meeting



Mr. Paula Taufua, PACC Coordinator

the last three quarters. Questions were raised from the community as to when new hardware will be implemented at the sites. The National Co-

ordinator responded that all designing and implementing will be after the completion of the first survey by the Technical Team. He concluded that all needs of the community would be best met if the community assists and participates in project activities and implementation.

Mr. Sione Manumanu, the Hihifo District Officer, agreed with members of the committee to participate on all PACC activities and implementation with the hope that this project will be the solution to minimize climate change impact on Hihifo sites.

The meeting ended with a high note as the community water committee was made aware that the Technical Team



Climate Change impact on Hihifo sites

working group will conduct the socio-economic survey of Hihifo.



Ms. Haunani Ngata (PACC Administration Assistant) participated in PACC Regional support training .

## Financial Operation on the roll for PACC Countries

The PACC Project's Operational and Finance Reporting begun to roll out with ease after training on the issue early last month.

Organized by UNDP and SPREP, the Operational and Financial Requirement regional meeting was set out to provide refresher training in understanding the rationale for the operational and financial requirements of UNDP/GEF and SPREP for the 13 member countries at the national and regional level. Regional PACC Project Officer Peni Leavai said the regional training cleared up a lot of cobwebs on the planning and reporting requirements for operations and finances of the project and brought all country management units up to speed. Based on the evaluation results of the workshop, the training also addressed the questions many participants had in mind.

He added, "It provided those countries who received country missions from the Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) SPREP to contribute constructively to the processes; their experience helped those participants from countries that the RPMU has yet to visit, to come up to speed and have hands-on exchanges." The RPMU SPREP saw the easing of their work load, mostly due to the bringing together of the

PACC Coordinators and their Finance personnel. The workload is more streamlined as a result of the regional training, thus increasing efficiency in the process. "The RPMU reviews more than 60 reports from the 13 countries every quarter, consolidation of these reports is therefore not easy, especially when compiling and finalizing financial and progress reports to countries. The training provided the opportunity to consult with the countries of the reporting requirements, tailored to ease their reporting duties. As a result, this significantly reduced the workload for RPMU," said Leavai. According to the Regional Project Manager, Taito Nakalevu, the major results seen were: the accuracy of the country reports, little time now spent on reports going back and forth between RPMU and the PACC National Coordinators, improvement in the number of incoming reports and narratives, and there is now a very clear understanding between PACC Coordinators and the Finance Ministries on the process and administration requirements of PACC at national level in terms of accounting for funds that have been dispersed from SPREP and the acquittals; this is very evident for Solomon Islands and Fiji where reports are coming forth with more accuracy taking away the administrative red tape. Nakalevu is confident that these classical results and outcome of the training will continue on and was much grateful to the assistance of

the PACC Implementing Partner. "I appreciate the support from UNDP particularly the New York Office for the consultant that was provided to the training, his valuable support to streamline reporting requirement to UNDP, this makes the load lighter in terms of managing the 13 member countries." Leavai said, "It is recommended we continue a refresher training of these processes every year to build country capacity as well as tailor UNDP/GEF reporting requirements for the region and countries relating to climate change adaptation projects. This will be useful not only for the PACC project, but for future climate change adaptation projects." The week long training attended by the 13 member countries was held on the 4th to the 8th of October, 2010 at the Technical and Education Centre in Apia, Samoa. The need for the training was part of a number of recommendations pointed out to SPREP and UNDP during the PACC Project's first Multi Partite Review (MPR) Meeting in May 2010 and the Project Board meeting in August 2010 requesting RPMU to scale up activities particularly at the regional level to assist in the implementation, mainly on operational, financial planning, and reporting requirements.

## Visit from PACC RPMU

PACC Tonga, welcomed the new PACC RPMU Project Officer, Mr. Peniamina Leavai, on his first official visit to Tonga.

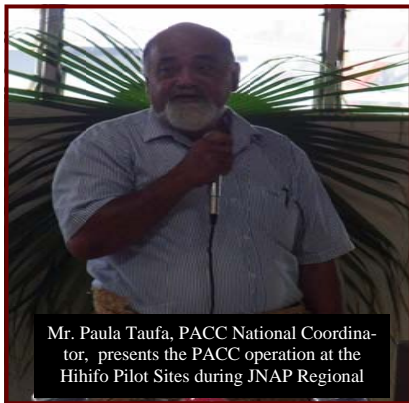
Mr. Leavai was in the Kingdom for two weeks to assist with the Tonga PMU. Mr. Leavai assisted with the financial support, the reporting requirements, and the project activities.

Mr. Leavai visited the PACC Pilot Site in the Hihifo District where he installed the PACC Billboard at the pilot location.

Mr. Leavai stated that his visit was a good change and chance for him to assist with the PACC Tonga's financial management.



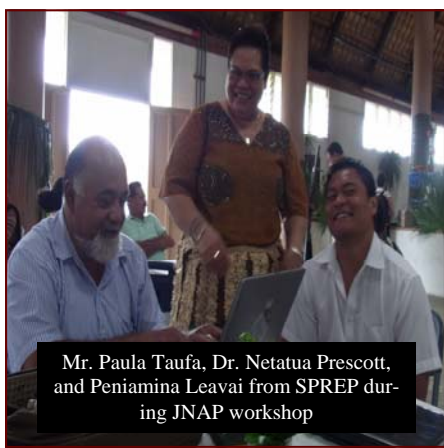
Mr. Peni Leavai, Regional PACC Project Officer, while visiting Tonga PACC for financial management support



Mr. Paula Taufu, PACC National Coordinator, presents the PACC operation at the Hihifo Pilot Sites during JNAP Regional

## PACC Tonga participates in Join National Action Plan (JNAP) Regional Program

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Second National on Climate Change Project has now formally endorsed its JNAP on climate change and disaster risk management plan for the years 2010-2015. This program seriously takes into account the responsibility of preserving for future generations the economic opportunities and environmental resources. The PACC project actively participated in the Climate Change Roundtable to discuss contents of Tonga's JNAP. JNAP is encouraging with regard to health indicators of access to safe water and sanitation. During this three-day workshop, Dr. Netatua Prescott from SPREP presented some of the activities relevant to the PACC project that SPREP is planning for Tonga. Officers from Australia's Ministry of Environment hosted awareness training during the workshop. Mr. Paula Taufu also presented on the operation of PACC Tonga for the first year of implementation that basically focused on building resilience to climate change in local communities. JNAP supports PACC Tonga on the implementation on the Hihifo sites.



Mr. Paula Taufu, Dr. Netatua Prescott, and Peniamina Leavai from SPREP during JNAP workshop

## Building capacity on resilience to climate change in Hihifo through media

PACC Tonga started rolling out in this last quarter its first TV spots, program and radio show as part of its awareness

activities to build capacity on climate change impact.

Building resilience to climate change impact on Hihifo Communities is the target theme and message that PACC Tonga are trying to disseminate. PACC Tonga has now put up its first billboard at the Hihifo Site. Radio and TV programs are currently running to introduce people to PACC program.

## Tonga PACC participates in Socio-Economic Assessment Training

PACC Project began its first sub-regional training on Socio-Economics Assessment (SEA) in Majuro, Republic of Marshall Islands on the 15th - 19th on November 2010. This training was based on Water Resource Management and included all member countries addressing the Water Sector. Representatives from participating countries included Tonga, Nauru, Niue and Tuvalu. The PACC Socio-economic Guide (SEA-PACC) presented at the first Multi-Partite Review (MPR) Meeting in May 2010 has been

completed and three sub-regional workshops to roll out the SEA-PACC guide are planned for groups of countries addressing the same PACC sectors. The objective of the training was to introduce the SEA-PACC and its linkages to the Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) process, provide the climate context for the SEA-PACC, introduce the SEA-PACC indicators, and engage the participants in group discussions on the process, indicators and analysis, and the 'how to' of carrying out the surveys. One sub-regional training on Socio-economic Assessment has been carried out in September for the Coastal Management countries in Kosrae in the FSM. The countries included Cook Islands, FSM, Samoa and Vanuatu. According to the Project Manager Taito Nakalevu, "The training was well received by the country representatives present as it very well complimented the V&A assessment they are carrying out at their pilot sites. The training also allowed the countries to better understand how they can develop indicators that will assist in their monitoring and evaluation of the adaptation option(s) they would be implementing."



Mr. Hoifua 'Aholahi, PACC technical officer

Tonga PACC PMU was represented by Mr. Hoifua

## News from SPREP Headquarters



Mr. Taito Nakalevu (PACC RPM)

## RPMU Witnesses Positive Results after Training

The PACC Project's Operational and Finance Reporting has begun to roll out with ease since the training earlier last month. Organized by UNDP and SPREP, the Operational and Financial Requirement regional meeting was set out to provide refresher training in understanding the rationale for operational and financial requirements of UNDP/GEF and SPREP to the 13 member countries at national and regional level. Regional PACC Project Officer Peni Leavai said the regional training cleared up a lot of cobwebs on the planning and reporting requirements for operations and finances of the project bringing all country management units up to speed, and from the evaluation results of the workshop, the training addressed the questions many participants had in mind. He added, "It provided those countries who received country missions from the Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU) SPREP to contribute constructively to the processes; their experience helped those participants from countries that the RPMU has yet to visit, to come up to speed and have hands-on exchanges." The RPMU SPREP saw the easing of their work load and these were mostly due to the bringing together of the PACC Coordinators and their Finance personnel, the workload is more streamlined as a result of the regional training, thus increasing efficiency in the process. "The RPMU reviews more than 60 reports from the 13 countries every quarter, consolidation of these reports is therefore not easy, especially when compiling and finalizing financial and progress reports to countries. The training provided the opportunity to consult with the countries of the reporting requirements, tailored to ease their reporting duties. As a result, this significantly reduced the workload for RPMU," said Leavai. According to Regional Project Manager, Taito Nakalevu, the major results seen were - the accuracy in the country reports, little time now spent on reports going back and forth between RPMU and the PACC national coordinators, improvement in the number of incoming reports and narratives, and there is now a very clear understanding between PACC Coordinators and the Finance Ministries on the process and administration.

'Aholahi, a technical officer from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. Tonga PACC is progressing on the Socio-Economic Assessment Survey of the Hihifo Pilot Site. Mr. Paula Taufu stated that after the SEA survey the PACC project will continue with the Vulnerability and Adaptation process as this will also include Impact Assessment. Mr. 'Aholahi says that this workshop was successful as most basic training on SEA-PACC was well covered during the workshop.



# News Highlights for PACC Tonga 2010

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change & PACC PMU- Tonga

Our Partner for the future

## Quarter 1: January– March

1. Establish of PACC PMU under the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
2. PACC Inception workshop
3. Official Selection of the Hihifo Pilot Site
4. Regional PACC PMU

## Quarter 2: April– June

1. Establish of PACC Technical Team
2. PACC Tonga participated in MPR Meeting in Apia, Samoa
3. First Community Consultation Workshop (Fo'ui-Ha'atafu)
4. Completed first community consultation report

## Quarter 3: July– September

1. PACC's first newsletter
2. PACC funded new website installation for PACC
3. Installation of two billboards for Hihifo sites
4. PACC participated in JNAP Workshop
5. PACC Regional Project Officer, Mr. Leavai, visited Tonga

## Quarter 4: October– December

1. PACC Financial and Administration workshop in Apia
2. Third Technical Meeting
3. Socio-economic survey started
4. SEA PACC Report completed

## **PACC Tonga's Third Technical Meeting**

The PACC Technical Team conducted its third meeting on the 19th October 2010. This was to consult with all members on PACC activities already in place and future activities planned for the Pilot Site. National Coordinator Mr. Paula Taufua says that the Technical Team decided to lead the socio-economic survey in the Hihifo Pilot Site. The survey will collect more information on the current situation and problems of water faced by the Pilot Site community. Mr. Sione Faka'osi, a PACC Technical Team member, stated that the socio-economic survey will enable the project to collect information based on responses from the community on how climate change will affect their water resources and environment. Mr. Faka'osi will lead the survey team together with members of the PACC Technical Team. The first draft of the socio-economic report was due in November.

## **PACC Tonga installs its first billboard in Hihifo sites**



“Building resilience to climate change for Hihifo Communities” is the general message that PACC Tonga hopes to disseminate all over the Hihifo communities. Raising community awareness and building capacity resilience to climate change at community level is also encouraged.

## **Dissemination of Education for Climate Change Adaptation**

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) supported the PACC project with technical support and capacity building for one of the PACC PMU Officers. This support included training based on capacity building on environmental awareness.

Mr. Saia Kami (PACC Project Officer) participated in this training

based in Nishinomiya, Japan. The project sees this as building capacity of the PACC team in areas very relevant to the project which is environmental awareness.



*Merry Christmas to All and Happy New Year*  
From the PACC Tonga– Project Management Unit  
Mr. Paula Taufua, Ms. Haunani Ngata, Mr. Saia Kami



The installation of the new billboard at the Hihifo site marked the importance of building resilience to the impacts of climate change.