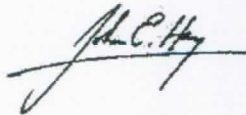


STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF OUR ISLANDS AND OUR COMMUNITIES TO CLIMATE CHANGE (SRIC – CC) PROJECT


Country: Cook Islands

Period Covered: January 1 to March 31, 2013

Prepared by: John E. Hay Date: April 2, 2013



Approved by: Ana Tiraa Date:



April 4, 2013

Approved by: Taimata Allsworth Date:



April 4, 2013

Section 1: Summary of Progress and Highlights for January 1 to March 31, 2013

Activities

- Provided guidance on preparations for an assessment of learning needs and delivery mechanisms for staff of relevant national agencies and organisations on strengthening policies, coordination and delivery of CCA and DRM initiatives on the ground in the Pa Enea;
- Provided guidance on preparations for an assessment of national and sector policies, related instruments, and work programmes with potential to support CCA and DRM in the Pa Enea;
- Provided guidance on preparation of detailed plans to strengthen the climate early warning and information systems, and on strengthening the capacity of the CIMS and its observing networks;
- Provide guidance on preparations for an assessment of needs and delivery mechanisms to enhance the capacities of island councils, administrators, technical officers, farmers, fishers households and business owners to undertake initiatives to enhance the resilience of their islands and communities;
- Provided guidance and oversight of the appointment, training and funding of SRIC Focal Points for each inhabited Pa Enea;
- Provided guidance and oversight of the strengthening of Pa Enea community sustainable development plans to include DRR and CCA considerations;
- Provided guidance and oversight on establishment, funding and operation of the SRIC small grants programme for the Pa Enea;
- Provided guidance and oversight on identifying and documenting lessons learned and best practices in relation to SRIC activities;
- Provided guidance on preparations to update the project baseline and confirm and update of performance indicators and targets;
- Provide guidance and oversight on recruiting a Financial Officer for the PMU;
- Preparation of the integrated multi-year work plan and budget (including annual and quarterly work plans and budgets), including use of UNDP template;
- Provide guidance and oversight regarding operation of the SRIC Programme Advisory Committee (PAC), and serve as an active member of the PAC;
- Reviewed and commented on programme documentation and reports, including work plans, budgets, progress reports and awareness raising materials;
- Reviewed and commented on proposed changes to the ProDoc;
- Provided advice on relationships with programme partners, development organizations, NGOs and other groups;
- Engaged in and contributed to policy dialogues at all appropriate levels; and
- Undertook other SRIC-related activities as requested by, and agreed with, the PMU.

Section 2: Project progress tracking sheet

Outcome/Output	Progress - January 1 to March 31, 2013
Outcome 1: Capacity developed for efficient and effective support at national level for disaster risk reduction and adaptation initiatives in the Pa Enea	
Output 1.1: Staff of national agencies and organisations on the NCCCT trained and working in ways that improve coordination and delivery of CCA and DRM initiatives on the ground in the Pa Enea	TA for learning needs assessment is underway
Output 1.2: National and sector policies, related instruments, and work programmes enhanced in ways that support CCA and DRM in the Pa Enea	TA for assessing and strengthening national and sector policies to support CCA and DRM in the Pa Enea, including preparation of a National Climate Change Policy, is underway
Output 1.3: Fully operational climate early warning and information systems	TOR for TA for a climate early warning system is now being prepared, based on a concept note approved by PAC Proposal for strengthening the capacity of the CIMS, and its observing networks, continues to be revised
Outcome 2: Key players in Pa Enea development have the capacity to reflect disaster risk management and adaptation considerations when planning, making decisions and during operations	
Output 2.1: Integrated CCA/DRR action plan for each of 11 Pa Enea	Draft Sustainable Community Development Plans prepared for seven Pa Enea; each has a component on Building Resilience to Climate Change and Disasters
Output 2.2: Enhanced capacities of island councils, administrators, technical officers, farmers, fishers households and business owners	TA for learning needs assessment is underway; SRIC Focal Points have been appointed for five Pa Enea
Outcome 3: Enhanced resilience to climate change, including weather- and climate-related disasters, for all 11 inhabited Pa Enea	
Output 3.1: Small grants to the 11 Pa Enea and their communities, to implement CCA and DRR	First applications have been received and will be processed in Q2
Output 3.2: Climate-resilient agricultural and fisheries practices implemented in at least 5 Pa Enea	No substantive progress
Output 3.3: Water capture, storage and groundwater management capacities are enhanced in at least 4 Pa Enea	See Output 3.7
Output 3.4: Coastal protection enhanced in at least 3 Pa Enea	No substantive progress
Output 3.5: Resilience of tourism enterprises enhanced in at least 3 Pa Enea	No substantive progress
Output 3.6: Health support and vector-borne disease control techniques introduced	No substantive progress
Output 3.7: Implement infrastructure projects that enhance water security	Recruitment of TA to undertake the work described in the approved TOR has been problematic due to suitably qualified consultants not being immediately available
Outcome 4: Lessons learned and best practices improve the effectiveness of initiatives to	

enhance the resilience of Pa Enea and other vulnerable communities	
Output 4.1: Lessons learned and best practices	Compilation of lessons learned and best practices has begun
Outcome 5: Effective and efficient project management	
Output 5.1: Project Management Unit established and operational	The PMU now comprises the Programme Director, the National Programme Manager (NPM), and the Programme Officer. Recruitment of a Financial Officer has been slow due to lack of interest in the position. An appointment is expected to be made in the first week of Q2. Frequent meetings with the National Programme Manager (NPM), to provide ongoing advice and guidance; regular meetings of the PAC
Output 5.2: Programme Monitoring and Evaluation	PAC has given approval to sign a contract with the consultant selected to undertake a review and update the indicator, baseline and target information in the SRF

Section 3A: Project Risks and Issues

3A: Project Risks Matrix

Risk	Proposed Mitigation Measures	Comments
Political influence exerted on decisions related to programme implementation	The PMU is well aware of the high level of political interest in SRIC activities and procedures in place to counteract any undue political interference.	Some situations have arisen and have been dealt with in a coordinated manner by the PMU, PAC and the OPM
Extreme climatic events and geophysical hazards damage or negate programme results, or cause major disturbances resulting in delays due to needed emergency and recovery processes	Close monitoring of any developing climate events over the duration of the programme and ensuring responses are effected within the national DRM response framework.	Despite one cyclone warning, no such events have occurred to date, and none is foreseen in the immediate future
Poor collaboration between programme partners	A key responsibility of PAC and the National Platform for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change is to ensure strong coordination and collaboration between programme partners	PAC and the National Platform for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change are working effectively
Finalization and implementation of the JNAP for DRM and CCA loses its momentum, and a national consensus on the institutional management of	There is strong commitment from Government, civil society and development partners to ensure successful implementation of the JNAP now it has been finalized. Ongoing and effective relationships will be maintained between the PMU and stakeholders in Government, civil society and development partners, to	There is continuing commitment to implement the JNAP

<p>different sectors and related priorities within the Plan and the needed collaboration of key government agencies in the programme is hindered by unforeseen influences.</p>	<p>ensure there is good understanding of how SRIC is implementing the JNAP</p>	
<p>Land disputes amongst community members adversely affect implementation of CCA and DRR intervention.</p>	<p>Programme technical team members will inform and encourage communities, and devise community lead solutions through participatory consultations to secure commitment and minimize disputes. Programme activities will be delivered with the active engagement of local institutional mechanisms (Island Councils, Climate Change Community Teams, local associations, Water Committees, etc.) as well as NGOs present in the islands to prevent and resolve any land-disputes.</p>	<p>The phase of SRIC where such issues may occur has not yet been reached, but planning will ensure risks are minimised</p>
<p>Limited human resources in Government Ministries and Agencies to contribute to the activities.</p>	<p>Key Ministries and Agencies became well engaged during and after the Inception Workshop Programme monitoring will be used to identify any problems at an early stage and the PMU will arrange for alternative measures including use of NGOs and community members.</p>	<p>Key Ministries and Agencies continue to be well engaged</p>
<p>There is sufficient coordination between Island Councils and national authorities to scale up the island-based integrated CCA and DRR actions in an effective manner</p>	<p>Schedule project activities to avoid and/or respond to such occurrences. Use of existing coordination mechanisms, linking island level and national institutions (e.g. the Pa Enea Governance Unit and the National Infrastructure Committee responding to requests made by Island Councils and Administrations), extension officers and representatives of national institutions based on the islands, to strengthen coordination. Active involvement of Island Council representatives in the PMU's work, as well as in the process of devising and implementing the JNAP at national and island levels. The Inception Workshop resulted in active collaboration and dialogue between Pa Enea leaders and national authorities.</p>	<p>The Pa Enea Community Sustainable Development Plans currently under preparation will ensure effective coordination</p>
<p>The methods, tools and technologies developed are not gender aware – i.e. they increase inequity between men and women or change the</p>	<p>Conduct training on gender analysis for programme team and partners, and use guidelines during selection of methods, tools and technologies</p>	<p>PAC is ensuring that gender considerations are given appropriate attention, consistent with the Pro Doc</p>

<p>social roles of men and women in a way that reduces self reliance.</p>		
<p>The government is no longer supportive, politically and financially, of a cross-sectoral and integrated approach to the management of climate risks and opportunities.</p>	<p>Reinforce mutual obligations for programme implementation at programme outset and during annual and mid term reviews</p>	<p>The government remains fully supportive of SRIC</p>
<p>Stakeholders are not able to perceive reductions in vulnerability over the time-scale determined by programme duration.</p>	<p>Focus on priorities of Pa Enea communities linked with the Community Sustainable Development Plans of each Pa Enea, providing combined benefits of immediate and perceivable livelihood support, while building long-term resilience to climate change. Maintain awareness raising and tailored communication activities targeting specific community groups and intervention areas.</p>	<p>The Pa Enea Community Sustainable Development Plans currently under preparation will ensure interventions deliver benefits that reflect the priorities of stakeholders</p>
<p>Stakeholders are not able to distinguish vulnerability to climate change from baseline weaknesses in land, coastal, and water resources management.</p>	<p>Conduct detailed and in-depth assessments specifying climate-driven impacts and impacts due to unsustainable use of natural resources, coupled with the application of sector-tailored climate information services, monitoring programmes, and continuous awareness raising and education activities.</p>	<p>The Pa Enea Community Sustainable Development Plans currently under preparation will ensure interventions deliver benefits that reflect the priorities of stakeholders</p>
<p>Communication, access and community coordination difficulties delay timely implementation of the planned programme activities at the target community level.</p>	<p>Active engagement of key partners present in the field to support communication and coordination with communities. Establishment of community-level coordination mechanisms (such as local water committees). Use the communication strategy and outreach programme targeted to island-specific conditions in each Pa Enea.</p>	<p>Key partners are actively engaged, and are coordinated by PAC and the National Platform for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change</p>
<p>Political or security complications in programme sites limits implementation of programme activities.</p>	<p>Project monitoring process to identify any problems at an early stage and NPC to arrange for alternative measures.</p>	<p>Project monitoring has not highlighted any actual or emerging issues</p>

<p>Selection and implementation of adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures in the Pa Enea do not form part of the integrated island development plans, do not allow for vulnerability considerations, do not follow established criteria and are derailed due to political processes and influence.</p>	<p>Address adaptation planning and actions through a sectoral and integrated manner, adjusted to the procedures and status of the Community Sustainable Development Plans for each Pa Enea, and focusing on priority needs of each Pa Enea community. As part of the adaptation planning process, maintain proactive outreach communications strategy and capacity building activities for duration of programme, involving Island Councils, community leaders and local NGOs.</p>	<p>PAC is committed to implementing activities that are reflected in the Pa Enea Community Sustainable Development Plans</p>
<p>High turnover rate for SRIC Focal Points</p>	<p>As part of the appointment process identify factors that might lead to the Focal Point resigning prematurely, and address these factors to the extent possible</p>	<p>The PMU and PAC are committed to minimising this risk</p>

3B: Project Issues

While three TAs finally started late in the quarter, commencement of two other TAs has been even slower. The main reason is difficulties related to identifying suitable consultants. Appointment of a Financial Officer has also been slow, largely for the same reason. Effort given to these tasks has impacted on progress in other areas, especially in relation to Outcome 3.

The level and quality of engagement by some Ministries and officials is not as high as one would expect, with adverse impacts on progress. The PMU should make more effort to identify and work with “champions” in these Ministries.

While appointment of a Financial Officer will increase the productivity of the PMU, even further improvement would occur if the NPM enhanced his time management skills.

The robustness of SRIC procedures is being tested as the Programme increases its visibility and some senior politicians see an opportunity to use SRIC funds to advance their agendas. As noted above, SRIC systems have been able to withstand these pressures. But dealing with such matters does take time and energy.

Section 4: Lessons Learnt (difficulties occurred and solutions found) and Good Practices (for knowledge sharing purposes)

Emerging lessons learned and good practices are being identified. At this stage most relate to the operation of the PMU and the PAC.

Section 5: Additional information

No additional information is relevant to this report.

Section 6: Workplan for Q2, 2013

Outcome/Output	STA Target
Outcome 1: Capacity developed for efficient and effective support at national level for disaster risk reduction and adaptation initiatives in the Pa Enuua	
Output 1.1: Staff of national agencies and organisations on the NCCCT trained and working in ways that improve coordination and delivery of CCA and DRM initiatives on the ground in the Pa Enuua	Training implementation strategy has been approved and its implementation is being planned
Output 1.2: National and sector policies, related instruments, and work programmes enhanced in ways that support CCA and DRM in the Pa Enuua	Draft National Climate Change Policy prepared and being considered by Government; implementation of other recommendations of the Policy TA being planned
Output 1.3: Fully operational climate early warning and information systems	TOR for development of a climate early warning system approved, officer appointed and work commenced. Proposal for a functioning weather observing and reporting system in the Pa Enuua has been approved by PAC, and implementation has begun
Outcome 2: Key players in Pa Enuua development have the capacity to reflect disaster risk management and adaptation considerations when planning, making decisions and during operations	
Output 2.1: Integrated CCA/DRR action plan for each of 11 Pa Enuua	Draft Sustainable Community Development Plans prepared for ten Pa Enuua; each has a component on Building Resilience to Climate Change and Disasters;
Output 2.2: Enhanced capacities of island councils, administrators, technical officers, farmers, fishers households and business owners	Training implementation strategy has been approved and its implementation is being planned; SRIC Focal Points appointed for ten Pa Enuua; Seven Focal Points have received targeted training
Outcome 3: Enhanced resilience to climate change, including weather- and climate-related disasters, for all 11 inhabited Pa Enuua	
Output 3.1: Small grants to the 11 Pa Enuua and their communities, to implement CCA and DRR	Applications are being received and qualifying projects approved
Output 3.2: Climate-resilient agricultural and fisheries practices implemented in at least 5 Pa Enuua	Draft implementation strategy completed
Output 3.3: Water capture, storage and groundwater management capacities are enhanced in at least 4 Pa Enuua	See Output 3.7
Output 3.4: Coastal protection enhanced in at least 3 Pa Enuua	Draft implementation strategy completed
Output 3.5: Resilience of tourism enterprises enhanced in at least 3 Pa Enuua	Draft implementation strategy completed
Output 3.6: Health support and vector-borne disease control techniques introduced	Draft implementation strategy completed
Output 3.7: Implement infrastructure projects that enhance water security	TA to update and refine needs and prepare implementation strategy has been completed; draft TOR for implementing the activities prepared and under review by PAC

Outcome 4: Lessons learned and best practices improve the effectiveness of initiatives to enhance the resilience of Pa Enea and other vulnerable communities	
Output 4.1: Lessons learned and best practices	Compilation of lessons learned and best practices continues
Outcome 5: Effective and efficient project management	
Output 5.1: Project Management Unit established and operational	Financial Officer appointed
Output 5.2: Programme Monitoring and Evaluation	TA to review and update the indicator, baseline and target information in the SRF has been completed; all requirements for reports and work plans are being met

Estimated number of days of work for Q2, 2013: 45

Estimated number of days in-country for Q2, 2013: 35

Section 7: Time Sheet for Q1, 2013

Week Beginning	Days Worked
January 1, 2013	1
January 8, 2013	4
January 15, 2013	2
January 22, 2013	1
January 29, 2013	2
February 5, 2013	3
February 12, 2013	3
February 19, 2013	4
February 26, 2013	5
March 5, 2013	5
March 12, 2013	4
March 19, 2013	4
March 26, 2013	3
TOTAL DAYS	41

Fee Due: 41 days * USD710 per day = USD 29,110.00

Shortfall in Payment for Q1, 2013 = USD 21.13 (refer to email from Marta dated February 17, 2013)

Total Claim: USD 29,131.13