

PACAM NEWSLETTER

SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE BECOMING A GAME-CHANGER IN THE PACIFIC

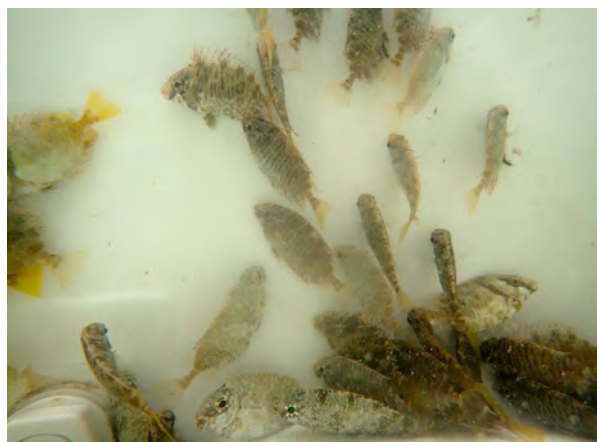
Aquaculture in the Pacific is in nascent stages, and fishing remains the greater contributor to economies. Sustainable aquaculture development initiatives supported by USAID's Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM), however, are proving to be game-changers as they have successfully gone commercial.

The Marine and Environmental Research Institute of Pohnpei (MERIP) farms and regularly exports giant clams and corals to the U.S. and other international markets for the aquarium trade; its exports of giant clams in particular have surged with PACAM's support. MERIP has also been training Pohnpei's fishers in aquaculture, as well as reaching out to communities about climate change and sustainable livelihood options. MERIP has recently started trials on raising rabbitfish and will soon train Pohnpei's fishers in rabbitfish farming, its first venture into fish farming.

Meanwhile, the Aquaculture Technologies of the Marshall Islands (ATMI) is now harvesting for its first export of commercially valuable fish known widely as moi (*Polydactylus sexfilis*) and as "fish for kings" in Hawaii. ATMI now supplies moi fish for a Chinese restaurant in Majuro on a weekly basis. With a weekly harvest of 200-300 lbs, ATMI is actively exploring export test markets in Hawaii and Taiwan. In addition, ATMI is manufacturing fish feed from otherwise-discarded bycatch to support the aquaculture sector, and training the local workforce to establish small aquaculture farms. ♦



(Above) ATMI crew readying to extract the fish from harvest net; (Below) Securing harvest net at the bottom of the cage. Photos © ATMI



By collecting some of the rabbitfish at the baby or juvenile stage, the over-all survival rate is increased; otherwise, the juvenile rabbitfish recruit at very large numbers, far beyond what the reef can support. Left to right: MERIP crew collecting juvenile rabbitfish; Baby rabbitfish in a tank. Photos: © MERIP

As fish stocks decline due to overfishing and climate change, Pacific-based organizations are working to diversify the income of fishers with more sustainable livelihood options.

IN ACTION / Project Updates from the Islands

Building Climate Resiliency of Vanuatu's Remote Islands

Some 700 community members, mostly women and children, learned about and discussed climate change and adaptation on two remote islands in Vanuatu. Climate change awareness sessions, facilitated by CARE International in Vanuatu, were conducted in several communities as well as primary and secondary schools on remote islands in Tafea and Sanma Provinces. In addition, four community gardens and two

school gardens have been established to demonstrate climate-resilient agricultural practices such as crop diversification, water harvesting, seed saving, and the use of resilient crops. These interventions address the vulnerabilities of these communities—which include lack of knowledge about climate change—and how to adapt agricultural and water resource management practices accordingly. Previous adaptation projects in Vanuatu have shown the importance of children in building community climate resilience. ♦

After Tropical Cyclone Winston, Fiji Communities Tackle Long-Term Climate Impacts

World Wide Fund for Nature-Pacific (WWF-Pacific) launched an initiative to develop long-term climate adaptation strategies, including consultations with a total of 249 community representatives and stakeholders as well as the identification of areas for mangrove replanting and riverbank stabilization. WWF-Pacific is facilitating the formulation of 20-year Sustainable Development Plans for Nacula and Nailaga Districts in Ba Province, an area badly affected by Tropical Cyclone Winston last February. The district-level plans will be aligned with Fiji's Green Growth Framework and National Development Plan 2015-2020.

"Climate change is already affecting us. I'm glad that the consultations covered climate change, development, and safeguarding our environment. I believe a district plan will ensure those three elements are addressed together," said clan elder Epeli Rainima of Matacaulevu village in Nacula.

WWF-Pacific is helping farmers rehabilitate their livelihoods post-Tropical Cyclone Winston and integrate climate resiliency into their farming practices and livelihood support system. ♦



WWF-Pacific holds a meeting with community representatives of Nailaga district in Ba Province in Fiji. Photo © WWF-Pacific

OVER 600 VILLAGERS TRAINED IN ORGANIC FARMING

In an initiative to promote climate-smart organic farming in Samoa, Matuaileoo Environment Trust Inc. (METI) has trained 676 villagers in permaculture — a design practice for regenerative social ecological systems that include sustainable and organic vegetable gardens, agroforestry, among others — and helped them set up over 60 kitchen gardens. METI is teaching permaculture by example, first establishing a one-acre farm as a demonstration garden growing high-value vegetables and fruits. The demo garden also functions as a seed bank. Most of the 25 project facilitators called *Taialas* ('path breakers' in the local language) then replicated the demonstration garden in their respective villages prior to conducting trainings in their villages. METI is implementing USAID's *Climate Change Action Program in 50 Villages* project, which promotes organic farming as well as healthy living through plant-based nutrition. ♦



PACAM's Praveen Lata visits a METI kitchen garden beneficiary. Photo © PACAM



Village coordinator Iulen Kapi inspecting the condition of a beehive Photo © NRDF

Pro-Forest Honey Production Pays Off in Solomon Islands

For the first quarter of 2016, the beekeepers in Choiseul Province in the Solomon Islands have already produced more honey than they had produced for the whole year of 2015: 313 kg of honey compared to last year's total production of 308 kg. At the going rate of 11 US\$/kg, this means an earning of US\$2,520 for the first quarter of the year. The beekeepers recently received from USAID a new four-frame honey extractor equipment so they can extract honey faster. USAID's Pacific American Climate Fund is supporting the local organization Natural Resources Development Foundation (NRDF) to develop beekeeping as a pro-forest income diversification strategy in 10 communities that support its sustainable forest management and forest conservation efforts. Sustainable forest management makes the communities less vulnerable to the risks of climate change by reducing erosion; helping to maintain clean water; and providing a habitat for plants and animals. A total of 29 villagers (16 males, 13 females) have been formally trained in beekeeping and provided starter bee colonies; their whole families have since been involved in beekeeping. ♦



PACAM Chief of Party Peter Collier (center) with his Yapese sponsor family from his Peace Corps days. Photo © PACAM

lege of Micronesia - FSM to promote climate-smart agriculture strategies as well as water harvesting techniques in the communities. During his visit, Collier introduced a senior advisor to major stakeholders, including government officials, the state legislature and community representatives. He also found the time to meet with members of his Peace Corps sponsor family, who were happily surprised to see him return to Yap with a new mission. ♦

Back in Yap with a New Mission

USAID's Pacific-American Climate Fund Chief of Party Peter Collier recently headed a mission to Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM): to fast-track the implementation of a climate-resilient adaptation initiative in the drought-stricken territory. For Collier, this was no ordinary field visit; it was also a homecoming as he had once served as a Peace Corps volunteer teacher and community advisor in Yap 25 years ago. "I am so happy to be back in Yap with USAID after all these years, and to be helping lead this crucial initiative. We are going the extra mile to make the Yapese communities more resilient and able to respond to crises magnified by our changing climate," said Collier. PACAM supports the Col-

PACAM TO LAUNCH CYCLE 3 GRANTS SOON

USAID's Pacific-American Climate Fund is preparing to award new grants in its third and final confirmed cycle. All Cycle 3 grants are expected to be awarded by the end of August 2016.

PACAM's third and final grants cycle, launched on June 26, 2015, generated 130 concept papers from organizations exclusively based in the Pacific countries; out of these, 29 applications were invited to submit full applications, and 27 organizations pursued their applications.

The Cycle 3 projects, in particular, emphasize high-impact partnerships in support of local solutions to intractable development challenges.

These applications were reviewed and ranked by panels during the grants' review process. Successful applicants then entered the pre-award assessment and negotiation phase.

USAID's Pacific-American Climate Fund is supporting 15 organizations throughout the region. PACAM has awarded a total of nine projects under Cycle 1 in early 2015, and six projects under Cycle 2 in late 2015 to early 2016. The projects' approaches are proving to be game-changing solutions to the challenge of development and climate change adaptation. ♦



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SPOTLIGHT: Partners' Profile

Adventist Development and Relief Agency Samoa Trust: Our Role Here is that of a Bridge

Excerpt from "Coupling Disaster and Financial Management to Reduce Vulnerability: Challenging the Traditional Samoan Mindset, Experiences from the Community" by **Su'a Julia Wallwork**,
ADRA Samoa Country Director

Throughout the world, the main motto of Adventist Development and Relief Agency Samoa Trust (ADRA) goes – "Changing the World, One Life at a Time". Our mandate is to alleviate suffering and reduce poverty, to "make a difference, one life at a time". We do this through our community development and climate adaptation work.

Through a grant from USAID's Pacific-American Climate Fund, we're now implementing the *Community Disaster Management and Livelihood Development* project. The project has its roots in the Samoan earthquake and tsunami experience of 2009. The tsunami highlighted the incapacity and lack of preparedness of local communities to cope with such events. Equipping such communities with the skills not only to prepare for a natural disaster, but also to manage the long-term effects of these disasters is vital, if not life-saving.

We integrate the traditional concepts of *faamatai* (the way of the Chiefs) and *faasamoa* (the Samoan way) into this project, while also steering communities to grasp this unfortunate new climate change reality of unpredictability. ADRA Samoa is finding that its role is that of a bridge —between science and

local or traditional knowledge, and between young and old generations.

We have learned that a strong buy-in from traditional leaders helps us succeed in our work. We have also learned that development work is more likely to succeed when we focus on economic development of the community. Once we have momentum for socio-economic development, we can focus on other activities like planning and disaster preparation and planning.

As part of our integrated approach, we're engaging communities in viable economic development activities, such as farming chilli peppers for Samoa's Own Chilli Sauce, and we have since introduced turmeric, sweet potato, cassava, and yams to diversify local crops. We also give financial literacy training to the villagers. As these small wins continue, communities are beginning to open up to new concepts. Our biggest challenge is to bring about a mindset that allows a better understanding of climate change impacts so we can figure out how to prepare our families and communities for the challenges ahead; to minimize the risks that come with climate change. ♦



From eight to 80 years old, villagers of Satufia Satupaitea attended the Disaster and Climate Risk Management training. The village also received seedlings and fishing nets under the USAID project. Photo © ADRA

ABOUT THE FUND

The Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM), is a grant-making facility funded by the U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and administered by Partners for Global Research and Development, LLC (PGRD) that assists 12 Pacific Island countries to reduce long-term vulnerabilities associated with climate change. PACAM awards grants to civil society organizations in support of climate change adaptation measures and related "co-benefits", such as livelihoods enhancement, improved health, food security, disaster risk reduction, or sustainable natural resources management.

In addition to building climate resiliency, the Pacific-American Climate Fund, through the awarded grants, will assist in strengthening the managerial and financial capacity of civil society organizations. The countries in which PACAM operates are: Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

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