

## PACAM NEWSLETTER

### U.S. Ambassador Joins Communities in Harvesting Taro from Rehabilitated Croplands in Palau

United States Ambassador Amy Hyatt joined Palau's communities in harvesting the region's staple food taro from the traditional croplands that have been rehabilitated with the support of USAID's Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM). There are many abandoned taro patches in Palau as agriculture is on the decline and the youth are not interested in farming anymore. The Palau Conservation Society (PCS) is working with the government and smallholders to promote taro cultivation, and revive as well as sustain neglected taro patches through traditional soil conservation and watershed management practices that can help address the critical issue of erosion in Palau. ♦



*U.S. Ambassador Amy Hyatt with Governor of Palau Francesca Remengesau (3rd from right) and Ngaremlengui High School teachers and students on harvest day. Photo © PCS*



*Itong Sebalt (left) harvesting taro with her family a few months after her taro field was rehabilitated. Photo © PCS*

#### First Harvest is for the Family!

"This is the first harvest so it will all be consumed at home, following our tradition," said government clerk Itong Sebalt, one of the 14 women who own taro croplands in Palau that have been rehabilitated recently. After years of neglect, her taro patch was cleared and replanted in August 2017. She is amazed at her bountiful first harvest and the potential earnings this means. Her yield from just one plot is already worth \$375. A typical taro field has an average of 21 plots — each one averaging 12 x 12 feet in size — that can be harvested twice a year. This means better days ahead for Sebalt's family. ♦



## Completed Projects

### USAID, NADA Mark Completion of Project that Boosts Resiliency in the RMI



*Republic of the Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine (center) shopped for the black pearls produced and set by the Namdrik community members during the "One Island, One Product" exhibit. Photos © Office of the RMI President; USAID/PACAM/Matt Abbott*

USAID recently marked the completion of a partnership that has helped strengthen the resiliency of coastal communities in Namdrik, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). In June 2015, USAID, through its Pacific-American Climate Fund, collaborated with Namdrik Atoll Development Association (NADA) to make black pearl farming a viable livelihood for atoll community members.

With USAID support, NADA trained workers in the highly specialized skill of oyster grafting, a crucial step in the cultured pearl farming process. The project also trained community members in grading and valuing pearls, jewelry making, and marketing.

To bolster the population's resilience to natural disasters and extreme weather, NADA is reinvest-

ing profits from the pearl farm back into community development projects.

"The U.S. government is proud to work with the Namdrik community to develop a sustainable industry that can provide a better livelihood for community members of this remote atoll, and build their resilience," said U.S. Ambassador to the Marshall Islands Karen Stewart. ♦

### University of Fiji Holds Seminar to Improve Management of Coastal Resources

The University of Fiji held a seminar to present project results to government partners and private sector partners and to mark the completion of the *Developing Base Maps of Tropical Aquatic Resources in the Pacific* project.

With the support of USAID's Pacific-American Climate Fund, the University of Fiji used GIS satellite imagery to develop high-resolution base maps of coastal marine resources at two coastal communities in Fiji: Votua, Ba and Komave, Coral Coast. These maps can inform future environmental policies and enhance the management of the country's coastal resources.



*Government and civil society representatives attended the seminar. Photo © UoFiji*

The USAID-University of Fiji partnership has resulted in two new courses that will be offered at the university by September 2018.

The project also collected regional satellite imagery to produce thematic maps that can highlight human uses and characteristics of global coastal ecosystems. ♦



## Completed Projects

### Advancing the Resiliency of Coastal Communities in Pohnpei, FSM



A MERIP diver tending to a coral farm. Photo: USAID/PACAM/Matt Abbott

USAID recently marked the completion of a partnership that has helped make coastal communities in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, more resilient.

In February 2015, USAID's Pacific-American Climate Fund collaborat-

ed with the Marine and Environmental Research Institute of Pohnpei (MERIP) to implement the *Diversifying Livelihoods of Fishing Communities in Pohnpei* project. The partnership expanded sustainable small-scale aquaculture ventures among fishing communities with challenged

livelihoods due to impacts from extreme weather variations and declining fish stocks.

"The U.S. government is proud to work with communities to make the most of their marine and coastal resources, and more importantly, to protect those most vulnerable who depend on these natural assets as they face their increasingly unpredictable future," said U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia Robert Riley.

With USAID support, MERIP trained and helped farmers to venture into sustainable farming of giant clams, sponges, and coral. The project also introduced rabbitfish farming as a new source of income for Pohnpei and as an alternative food supply. As a result, farmer beneficiaries earned as much as \$200 additional income to support their families. ♦

### Improving Community and Environmental Resilience in Solomon Islands

USAID marked the completion of a partnership in the Western and Choiseul Provinces of Solomon Islands that enabled the Natural Resources Development Foundation (NRDF) to assist communities to sustainably manage and conserve their endangered forests.

Since February 2015, the project has trained eight communities in sustainable forest management practices that follow international standards. The project has supported the communities in identifying and proposing three forest conservation sites that are now pending final approval by the national government. If approved, these will be among the first terrestrial protected areas in the country.

USAID and NRDF introduced beekeeping to ease the pressure on forest resources. The project also supported the establishment of microfinance through the women's savings clubs in the communities, which helped its members' families pay for school fees and emergencies as well as start small businesses. ♦



The project trained communities in sustainable forest management Photo © NRDF



## Scaling Up Inclusive Mangrove Management in PNG



(Above) Poukama community members transplanting mangrove seedlings.; (Below) Nikura community members re-stocking mangrove forests with mudcrabs. Photos © PNGCLMA

The Papua New Guinea Center for Locally Managed Areas (PNGCLMA) recently trained over 70 people from three communities of PNG's Central Province to manage their mangrove forests effectively. The extensive week-long training is the first of a series of progressive trainings designed to help traditionally male-dominated communities include both men and women in resource management actions and decisions, with a special focus on rehabilitating mangrove forests and re-stocking food and income resources (mudcrabs, shellfish, etc.) in these habitats.

PNGCLMA has also completed important biological baseline surveys identifying target species for management and re-stocking to guide the communities' management plans. The survey was led by a mangrove specialist from the University of Papua New Guinea.

A market survey analysis conducted by the project has notably helped identify new market opportunities for the women in these communities, thus improving their families' earnings from mangrove resources sold at the market. ♦

### 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 develop and sustain their environmental resilience.

PACAM awards grants to civil society organizations (including local, national, and internationally-operating entities) in support of resilience measures that promote "co-benefits", such as livelihoods enhancement, improved health, food security, disaster risk reduction, or sustainable natural resources management. Resources for managerial and financial capacity-building are also provided to CSO grantees, so as to ensure the sustainability of their efforts and improve their ability to access and manage funds from other donors.

PACAM has awarded to date 28 resilience grants to CSOs across the Pacific Islands, including four biodiversity and resilience grants awarded in the latest confirmed cycle.

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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