

PACAM NEWSLETTER**Forces of Nature: Vanuatu's Women Disaster-Proof Their Community**

"This is our land, our ancestors' land. We have learned to live with Mount Yasur. It's nature. We always watch out for black clouds that signal ash rain. Now, with the disaster committees and our knowledge of smart gardening, I feel we're ready for anything," said Elsie Nambri of Ikurup village on Tanna island. Photo © PACAM/Matt Abbott



In addition to resilient gardening, the women learned to use solar dryers so they can preserve food for times of need. The project's partner villagers received solar dryers from the USAID resilience project. Photo © CARE/Mark Chew

Mt. Yasur on the southernmost island of Tanna in Vanuatu has been erupting continuously for 800 years. Cyclones, earthquakes and droughts are also facts of life for Tanna's communities. The island was one of the hardest-hit islands when Tropical Cyclone Pam struck in 2015.

Disasters are particularly hard on Vanuatu's women, who are traditionally excluded from decision-making in rural communities. Empowering women is at the heart of the USAID-supported resilience-building project of CARE International in Vanuatu implemented on Tanna and three other islands in Tafea and Sanma provinces.

The project established six community and four school demonstration garden plots to teach women and children resilient gardening techniques such as mulching, composting, intercropping, rainwater harvesting and seed saving practices. Inspired by the demo plot, Elsie Nambri, the preschool teacher of Ikurup, started a women's vegetable garden that now serves as a lifeline for the families in the village.

The project established 10 gender-balanced Community Disaster and Climate Change Committees (CDCCC) on Tanna alone. With this, women's equal participation in community decision-making is helping to secure the island's increasingly unpredictable future. ♦

Climate Change Symposium



Photos from top to bottom: Symposium organizers Dr. Walter Leal and Su'a Julia Wallwork, Executive Director of PACAM grantee organization ADRA-Samoa, welcome participants; PACAM staff and grantees pose for a group photo. Photos © PACAM

24 Organizations Share Best Practices at 2nd PACAM Regional Forum in Samoa

PACAM recently brought together 24 grantee organizations across the Pacific region to share best practices and innovations in implementing climate change adaptation projects. The three-day regional forum was held in conjunction with the *World Symposium on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Strategies in Coastal Communities* held in Apia, Samoa. It was a good opportunity for the PACAM grantees to network, exchange ideas, and find solutions to the challenges they face in implementing adaptation projects. One common theme that emerged from the presentations is integrating new technologies or modern methods with indigenous knowledge and cultural practices to ensure that adaptation efforts are socially/culturally appropriate at the local level. Many of the grantees also reported notable achievements with gender mainstreaming, even across different cultural settings. Sustainability of the initiatives was also a special focus of the discussions, with several projects already nearing completion. ♦

PACAM Co-Sponsors World Symposium on Climate Change in Samoa

USAID's Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM), in coordination with the University of Hamburg (Germany), produced the *World Symposium on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Strategies in Coastal Communities* held July 5-7 in Apia, Samoa.

PACAM supported representatives of 24 Pacific-based grantee organizations to participate in the symposium attended by leading climate change adaptation scholars, practitioners and policymakers in the Pacific region and beyond.

Several PACAM grantees presented papers on their adaptation work at the symposium, including Internews, Marine and Environmental Research Institute of Pohnpei, University of Fiji, Aquaculture Technologies of the Marshall Islands, College of Micronesia-Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau Conservation Society. Selected papers from the symposium will be included in a peer-reviewed book publication from the Berlin-based publisher Springer. ♦



In Action

Fijian Communities Recover from Cyclone Winston with Agribusiness Project



Left to right: The women of Navotua community with Open Day guests; Navotua is now a brand for a line of virgin coconut oil and other value-adding products. Photos © WWF-Pacific

A year after the devastation of Tropical Cyclone Winston, the Navotua village in Fiji held an Open Day on July 20 to showcase disaster resilient model farms and vegetable gardens that have been set up with PACAM's support. The women of the community have also developed products such as noni juice, breadfruit and banana chips, and virgin coconut oil, among others, that they are now selling.

The World Wide Fund for Nature-Pacific (WWF-Pacific) trained the women of Navotua over a year in food preservation and processing, helped them establish vegetable gardens and a seedbank for their families' gardens, and introduced them to resilient varieties of sweet potatoes so they can develop model farms for the others to learn from.

The Ministry of Agriculture's West Principal Agriculture Officer Viliame Mainawalala and officials of the other villages of Nacula district in western Fiji's Yasawa Islands attended the Open Day. WWF-Pacific is developing a toolkit for the other communities to replicate Navotua's disaster resilience activities. USAID is co-funding the resilience project with the Australian government. ♦

Three Palau States Get Equipment and Training to Monitor Watersheds

The Palau Conservation Society (PCS) donated water quality monitoring kits to three Palau state governments to help them monitor and manage their watersheds.



Left to right: Training to use the turbidity meter kits; Handover of the water quality monitoring kits. Photos © PCS

These states are the first three out of Palau's 16 states to have this valuable equipment. Palau's Environmental Quality Protection Board (EQPB), which used to be the only entity equipped to monitor and test water sources in Palau, helped PCS train the Public Works staff of the state governments to use the equipment. USAID's Pacific-American Climate Fund is also supporting PCS to help revive neglected taro patches in the three states using traditional ecological knowledge and practices that have proven to be helpful in managing watersheds. A 2005 study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture found that unsustainable modern farming techniques have caused an alarmingly high rate of erosion in Palau. Soil erosion and watershed degradation are priority issues that Palau's government is trying to address. ♦

People of PACAM

COM-FSM Researcher Joins IPCC Authors' Team for Special Report on Land



Dr. Hoesung Lee, Chair of the IPCC, with Dr. Murukesan Krishnapillai of COM-FSM Photo © COM-FSM

College of Micronesia-Federated States of Micronesia (COM-FSM) Yap Center for Research and Extension researcher Dr. Murukesan Krishnapillai has been named as a Lead Author for an upcoming Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Climate Change and Land. Dr. Krishnapillai is also the Project Director of the Climate Adaptive and Agriculture Resilience project supported by USAID's Pacific-American Climate Fund.

As part of the IPCC 6th Assessment Report to be released in 2019, the report is titled "Climate Change and Land: an IPCC Special Report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems". The IPCC decided to prepare this special report at its 43rd Session in Nairobi. A Scoping Meeting for the Special Report was then held in Dublin, and the final outline

of the report was approved by the IPCC at its 45th Session in Guadalajara, Mexico.

The issues that will be examined in this report are critically important for small island states where land is often limited and there is intense pressure to use available land for food production. Preventing land degradation and rehabilitating already degraded land, scaling up sustainable land management and accelerating restoration initiatives are necessary for greater resilience and enhanced food security.

"It is an honor to be a Lead Author in this report. It is a testimony to our continued work on climate change adaptation in Yap," said Dr. Krishnapillai.

For over a decade, COM-FSM Yap has been working with settlement communities to improve their food security and environmental as well as climate resilience. ♦

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.

Peter Collier

Chief of Party, Pacific-American Climate Fund
Unit 1003 Financial and Trade Tower
7th Avenue corner 32nd Street
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Manila, Philippines
Email: pcollier@pgrd.org
Web: www.pgrd.org/projects/pacam/

Sharon Gulick

Environment Officer
USAID/Pacific Islands
U.S. Embassy
1201 Roxas Boulevard
Ermita Manila, Philippines
Email: sgulick@usaid.gov

REGIONAL OFFICES

Melanesia Regional Office

Regional Fund Manager
Junne Cosmas
jcosmas@pgrd.org

Polynesia Regional Office

Regional Fund Manager
Praveen Lata plata@pgrd.org

Micronesia Regional Office

Regional Fund Manager
Praveen Lata
plata@pgrd.org