

PACAM NEWSLETTER

Regional Symposium on Sustainable Agriculture and Resilience Held in Fiji

The Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises and Development (FRIEND) held the "Symposium on Sustainable Agriculture and Community Resiliency" in Lautoka, Fiji on August 28-30. U.S. Embassy in Suva Chargé d'Affaires Michael Goldman and Fiji Minister of Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, and National Disaster Management Inia Seruiratu were the guests of honor.

"Since USAID and FRIEND launched the resilience project shortly after Cyclone Winston devastated farmlands in Fiji, the prospects for beneficiary farmers have improved. Many farmers have stopped using harmful chemicals, and converted to the



U.S. Charge d'Affaires Michael Goldman awarded farmers prizes for best practices. Photo © PACAM

more sustainable organic agriculture. They now earn better incomes and provide healthy food for their families," Goldman said.

The symposium convened stakeholders to share their insights on sustainable agriculture and resilience. ♦



Fiji's Agriculture Minister Inia Seruiratu opened the symposium. Photo © FRIEND

Agricultural Development Should Be Sustainable, Says Fiji's Agriculture Minister

Fiji's Minister of Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, and National Disaster Management Inia Seruiratu opened the regional symposium by underscoring the importance of sustainable agriculture, noting that short-term gains in productivity should not come at great environmental and social costs in the long term.

He added: "Sustainable agriculture also has considerable employment potential in rural areas, specifically for young women and men who can further contribute to a more sustainable economy."

The Minister emphasized that smart incentives and sustained dialogues are needed to empower smallholder farmers. The symposium made such a dialogue possible, with representatives from regional organizations like the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom), which governs organic standards in the region, sharing their perspective with farmers. ♦

Special Events

Samoan Prime Minister Joins Communities in Celebrating Project Completion



Left: ADRA executive director Su'a Julia Wallwork, Samoa Prime Minister Tuilaepa Aiono Sialele Malielegaoi, Pastor Kenneth Fuliase, Chair of ADRA Board, and US Chargé d'Affaires Antone Greubel; Right: A farmer received farming equipment. © ADRA/U.S. Embassy in Apia

On August 21, the United States Chargé d'Affaires to Samoa Antone Greubel joined Samoa's Prime Minister Tuilaepa Aiono Sialele Malielegaoi, the Adventist Relief and Development Agency-Samoa (ADRA-Samoa), partner agencies and communities in celebrating the successful completion of the *Community Disaster Management and Livelihood Development* project. The project trained 10 communities in

disaster management and sustainable livelihoods, including fishing and agriculture.

As a result, the communities have developed community disaster and climate risk plans, and established disaster response teams. The project participants also received fishing nets and seedlings to help them diversify their livelihoods using sustainable practices.

"We are confident that the selected communities who benefited from this project are not only better prepared to respond to disasters, but also armed with the skills and knowledge to improve their livelihoods and to build sustainable communities," Samoa's Prime Minister Malielegaoi said.

The communities received farming and fishing equipment at the event. ♦

Community Resilience Project Management Handbook Launched in Samoa

On September 6, the United States Chargé d'Affaires to Samoa Antone Greubel joined Samoa's Deputy Prime Minister Fiaame Naomi Mataafa and the Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisations, Inc. (SUNGO) in launching the "Climate Change Adaptation Project Design and Management Handbook". This is the culmination of a two-year project that trained communities across the islands of Upolu and Savaii to design and run resilience projects to ensure community ownership of the process.

USAID's Pacific-American Climate Fund and SUNGO have trained 494



Samoa's Deputy Prime Minister Fiaame Naomi Mataafa (center) and U.S. Charge d'Affaires Antone Greubel (second from right) with SUNGO's senior management. Photo © U.S. Embassy in Apia

community members using a module that SUNGO developed especially for Samoa. It is this module that the project developed into the handbook to serve as a

reference resource to benefit more Samoan communities. So far, 17 previous participants of the training have helped start up or implement community resilience projects. ♦

Fijian Communities Launch 20-Year Sustainable Development Plans



Stakeholders launched the Sustainable Development Plans. Photo © WWF

On August 3, the districts of Nacula and Nailaga in western Fiji launched the landmark 20-Year Sustainable Development Plans that were the result of a series of community and stakeholder consultations facilitated by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)-Pacific over the last three years.

In October 2015, USAID, through its

Pacific-American Climate Fund, collaborated with WWF-Pacific to assist two districts in the province of Ba, Fiji's most populous province, to integrate climate resiliency into their farming practices as well as coastal-based livelihood systems in the long term. Following the devastation of Tropical Cyclone Winston in February 2016, the project flexibly helped the

communities rehabilitate and improve their livelihoods.

At the launch of the Sustainable Development Plans, Fiji's Western Division Acting Commissioner Joji Satakala said that the plans are "a hallmark goal for the Government of Fiji" and will go a long way to ensure access to sustainable water resources, education, transportation, health and well-being, economic security, women's development, and sustainable management of natural resources in the face of climate change.

Through the project, USAID and WWF-Pacific rehabilitated 12.15 hectares of eroding coastline and riverbanks in Fiji using biodegradable materials made of coconut fiber as buffer zones to reduce erosion. The rehabilitation also involved replanting of mangroves, with mangrove nurseries set up in both districts. ♦

128 Community Members Trained in Biodiversity Conservation in PNG

The Institute for Sustainable Futures-University of Technology Sydney (ISF-UTS) and local partner Binatang Research Centre recently trained 128 community members in biodiversity and resilience in Papua New Guinea (PNG). At the end of the two-day workshops in Madang Province and Eastern Highlands Province, the community members identified local ecosystem services and evaluated how these may be impacted by climate change and development. The communities also identified possible small-scale projects to enhance the management of ecosystems that will benefit both biodiversity and livelihoods. ♦



The project trained communities in biodiversity conservation. Photo © ISF

PNG Biodiversity Projects Present Achievements at Midterm Review Workshop



Visiting PACAM staff (wearing welcome wreaths) with PNG project beneficiaries. Photo © PACAM

USAID's Pacific-American Climate Fund held a Midterm Review workshop August 2-4 in Port Moresby for partner organizations implementing four biodiversity projects. The workshop concluded the series of midterm reviews held earlier for the projects implemented by partner organizations Mahonia Na Dari, PNG Centre for Locally

Managed Areas (with partner Conservation International), Live and Learn Environmental Education, and Institute for Sustainable Futures-University of Technology Sydney (with local partner Binatang Research Centre). The projects are achieving their goals and, in most cases, even exceeding targets. ♦



Forest Assessment. To assess the impact of the 2015 major fire event for the communities in Central West New Britain Province, Live & Learn Environmental Education conducted a forest inventory assessing the propensity of different forest areas to regenerate. The inventory resulted in nearly 1,000 plant species identified, including at least one possibly new *Ficus* forest tree plant species that is now pending confirmation. Photo © LLEE

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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