

PACAM NEWSLETTER

Four Projects Launched to Protect Biodiversity in PNG

Port Moresby—Papua New Guinea (PNG) is a country blessed with an exceptionally rich biodiversity. The largest rainforest in the Asia-Pacific region is found here; it is also part of the Coral Triangle, the so-called “Amazon of the Seas”.

On October 3, the U.S. government launched four new projects that will help PNG communities protect their biodiversity and improve resilience. USAID’s Pacific-American Climate Fund awarded the new grants to: Mahonia Na Dari Research, Education and Conservation Centre (MND); Papua New Guinea Centre for Locally Managed Areas Inc. (PNGCLMA); Institute for Sustainable Futures-University of Technology Sydney (ISF-UTS); and Live and Learn Environmental Education (LLEE).

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One of the new projects will raise the marine biodiversity awareness of the youth of Kimbe Bay. Kimbe Bay, which hosts over half the world’s species of hard corals (413) and over 900 species of fish, is considered a Key Biodiversity Area. Almost half of the globally threatened species in the East Melanesian Islands Hotspot are reef-building corals. Threats to reefs include everything from climate change (especially ocean acidification) to local human impacts. Photo © MND



An Organic Celebration. In an effort to expand markets for organic produce, the Foundation for Rural and Integrated Enterprises Development (FRIEND) recently opened *Tukuni*, a farm-to-table restaurant offering traditional cuisine in Tuvu, Fiji. FRIEND also helps the farmers market their organic produce to select shops and restaurants. With support from USAID’s Pacific-American Climate Fund, FRIEND has trained over 180 farmers in organic farming and food preservation techniques. *Photo © FRIEND*

Joint Project Launch

Four Projects Launched/
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MND will raise the marine biodiversity awareness of communities surrounding Kimbe Bay, a Key Biodiversity Area as determined by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund. The project will develop a curriculum, approach and materials on Marine Environment Education that can be rolled out to other coastal areas in PNG.

PNGCLMA will implement the *Scaling Up Women's Participation in Mangrove Management* project. This project will train women in Kairuku District, Central Province to participate actively in decision-making for mangrove forests and food resource management, thus promoting equal participation of both men and women in the communities.

ISF-UTS will implement the *Engaging Communities and Government in Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Adaptation* project. Through this project, ISF-UTS will train regional govern-

ments and communities of the provinces of Madang and Eastern Highlands Province in community engagement processes that identify and value ecosystem services. The aim is to enable local governments to make informed decisions as well as lobby for the protection of valued eco-systems.

LLEE will implement the *Managing Fire to Conserve Biodiversity and Reduce Climate Vulnerability* project in which they will develop a fire and forest management plan to reduce the vulnerability of the Gimalapira biodiversity conservation area, its surrounding villages, and the agro-

forestry zone to a future major fire event, the biggest threat to the integrity of this area.

"These initiatives build upon our strong ties as we promote a resilient future for the people of Papua New Guinea. It is critical to conserve Papua New Guinea's natural heritage at a time when biodiversity is facing grave threats around the world, with species going extinct in recent centuries at an alarming rate," said U.S. Ambassador Ebert-Gray at the launch.

PACAM to date has implemented 28 grants valued at over \$11 million. ♦



U.S. Ambassador Catherine Ebert-Gray (standing third from right) with PNG and Solomon Islands government officials, Japan Ambassador to PNG (fourth from right), USAID staff and representatives of grantee organizations after the awarding of certificates. Photo © PACAM



Theory of Change Workshop. After the joint project launch, a Theory of Change workshop was held for the recipients of USAID's biodiversity grants to train them in use of the Theory of Change for improved biodiversity and development outcomes. The session also resulted in interesting cross-pollination among grantees. For example, MND asked for PNGCLMA's mangrove nursery guidance for their training program. PNGCLMA also shared that they serve on the government's climate change working group and offered to link up other grantees with government as needed. ♦

CLMA Executive Director Maxine Anjiga presenting her project's indicators during the workshop. Photo © PACAM

Project Updates

Demo Site for Resilient Agriculture Established in PNG



(Left photo) Farmers harvesting drought-resistant sweet potatoes; (Right photo) Farmers checking out the site's water system. Photos © ChildFund



ChildFund has established a demo site in Central Province in Papua New Guinea to grow, multiply and distribute improved varieties of crops to farmers. The demo site in Goata village now grows varieties of drought-tolerant cassava, sweet potato and yam; disease-resistant taro; and open-pollinated corn which is high in protein. On October 31, a farmers' field day was held on the site, where farmers from 12 sur-

rounding villages learned a number of sustainable farming techniques from the National Agricultural and Research Institute.

During the field day, the sweet potatoes were harvested and cooked, and the seeds were shared among the village representatives.

"I am keen to help my community plant improved varieties of crops so

that they can increase their yields and avoid damages from drought and changing weather conditions," said Lessy Bonio, a farmer from Goata village.

USAID, through PACAM, is supporting ChildFund to strengthen the agricultural resilience of subsistence farmers in PNG's Rigo District. ♦

Promoting Healthy Gardens and Lifestyle on World Diabetes Day in Chuuk, FSM

The Chuuk Women's Council (CWC) observed the World Diabetes Day on November 14 with activities promoting home gardening and a healthy lifestyle. Seventy people attended, including representatives of government agencies and partner communities of the *Climate Change Adaptation through Family, Gardens, Food and Health* project. Activities included medical screening, distribution of "Home Gardening" booklets, seedling exchange, and sale of produce from the community nurseries and home gardens that have been established through the project. ♦



CWC offered one-on-one consultations with communities on starting up home gardens on the occasion of World Diabetes Day. PACAM is supporting CWC to improve the Chuukese communities' resilience by helping families and school communities to grow nutritious food. Photo © CWC

Project Updates

Strengthening Adaptive Water Management in Kiribati

Wells, the predominant source of fresh water in Kiribati, are increasingly affected by saltwater intrusion due to high tides, sea level rise, and more frequent storms and tropical cyclones. Saltwater intrusion makes water unfit for people to drink and is a serious health concern in a country that has the highest mortality rate for children under five in the western Pacific region.

With the support of USAID's Pacific-American Climate Fund, the Institute for Sustainable Futures-University of Technology Sydney (ISF-UTS) has trained over 300 government officials as well as civil society, youth and outer islands community leaders in Kiribati in adaptive water management. Since September 2015, ISF-UTS, in partnership with the Kiribati Climate Action Network (KiriCAN), has been working to build the adaptive capacity of communities on the outer islands of Kiribati by supporting the decision-making around the diversification of water resources.

Local facilitators from the Kiribati

Climate Action Network (KiriCAN), Kiribati Community Service Organizations and relevant government offices were trained to use a suite of tools and processes based on the Dynamic Adaptive Management Process handbook (also developed through the project) to help local communities manage water supplies. The process guides the communities to identify indicators of when a new water source should be utilized to minimize water shortages and improve health.

Of the 300 people trained through the project, over half (170 people) were from ten outer island communities. The comprehensive project evaluation showed this training resulted in significantly strengthened capability of individuals, organizations and communities to secure potable water supply, thus reducing the vulnerability of communities.

KiriCAN plans to integrate the training in their work long-term. ♦

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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Participants of the training in dynamic adaptive water management learned to help local communities manage their water supply. Photo © KiriCAN