

PACAM NEWSLETTER

PACAM Moves Forward on All Grant Cycles

The last several months have been an exciting and busy period for the Pacific-American Climate Fund and its partners. Cycle 1 grants are launched and well underway across the Pacific, with several reporting achievements ahead of schedule; Cycle 2 grants are finalized in October with launches scheduled between October through January; and Cycle 3 full applications will be submitted on October 15, 2015. In this Newsletter, you will find updates on all three grant cycles, information about different grant projects, including some of their achievements, updates on changes and additions to the PACAM program team, and a spotlight on one of the program's grantees doing great things in Samoa.



Natural Resources Development Foundation (NRDF) Launch Ceremony

Cycle 1 Grants Launched and Underway

In the first quarter of 2015, the Program awarded nine grants in Cycle 1, totaling US\$ 5.4 million, which are underway in six countries across the Pacific, including the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, and Solomon Islands. All nine grants were launched at lively events featuring dancing, music, and government representatives including US ambassadors and heads of state. See below to learn about the projects and some of their achievements to date.

Cycle 2 Grants Negotiated and Awarded

In Cycle 2, PACAM received 179 concept paper applications from across the Pacific. From the 179, 31 were invited

to submit full applications, and following evaluations and pre-award survey assessments, six were submitted to USAID for approval. As of September 2015, two Cycle 2 grants have been signed, one with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency - Samoa Trust (ADRA/Samoa) for its project on *Community Disaster Management and Livelihood Development*, and the second to the Institute for Sustainable Futures - University of Technology Sydney's for its project on *Dynamic Adaptive Management Pathways in the Outer Islands Water Sector of Kiribati*.

Cycle 3 Grants Solicitation Issued

PACAM's third and expected final grants cycle was launched on June 26 with a solicitation for concept papers exclusively inviting local organizations based in the Pacific to apply. PACAM

received 140 concept papers, of which 29 were invited to submit full applications by October 15, 2015. The PACAM Grants Review Committee and Grants Review Board will complete their work and recommend a final group of applications for funding by December 2015.

Part of PACAM's funding award pro-

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Tour of Cycle 1 Project Launches

cess includes conducting grant project launches in the grantee's countries. Cycle I project launch ceremonies conducted in the first part of the year included participation from a wide range of stakeholders, including US Ambassadors and US government officials; host-country heads of state; national, provincial, and local government officials; community leaders; beneficiaries; partners; and, community members. The events received wide media attention and reflected the strong commitment and investment of communities toward meeting the challenges posed by our changing climate.

Cycle I project launch ceremonies involved celebrations criss-crossing the Pacific. Starting in the Solomon Islands, the US Ambassador to Papua New Guinea (PNG), Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, Walter North, attended the launch of the Natural Resources Development Foundation. Together with USAID and the PACAM team, Ambassador North continued on to launch grants for CARE International and the Conservation International projects in Papua New Guinea, where he expressed how impressed he was "by the tremendous spirit of innovation and grit of the

"I have been impressed by the tremendous spirit of innovation and grit of the people of your country. I am sure you will bring that same spirit to addressing the threat of climate change."

Ambassador Walter North, US Ambassador to New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu, at the CARE International and Conservation International project launch programs, February 2015, Papua New Guinea

people of your country. I am sure you will bring that same spirit to addressing the threat of climate change."

The next destination was the Federated States of Micronesia for a joint launch of grants for the Marine and Environmental Research Institute in Pohnpei and the College of Micronesia projects (photos next page). Speaking at the event, US Chargé d'Affaires Hugues Ogier discussed how important it was that the US and the Federated States of Micronesia "work hand in hand to respond to the threat of climate change and find solutions to best cope with it."

In Fiji, President Ratu Epeli Nailatikau as well as US Ambassador to Fiji, Kiri-

bati, Nauru, Tonga, and Tuvalu, Judith Cefkin, joined in celebrating the University of Fiji grant project, which included some 70 participants from the university, the US government, and the Fiji government. The launch featured traditional dancers and presentations by the grantee on their work.

The team headed to Samoa with the presence of Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi to launch the Matuaileoo Environment Trust, Inc. Next was the Republic of Marshall Islands to launch the Aquaculture Technologies of the Marshall Islands, which included the US Ambassador to the Republic of Marshall Islands, Tom Armbruster, who went under the water to check out the grantee's work. Hon. Jack J. Ading, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, also graced the affair.

The following pages feature photos from some of the launches.



US Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu, Walter North, (Left) exchanges gift with Governor Titus Philemon of Milne Bay at the launch of the Conservation International grant project in Nissan, Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. Photo ©PACAM

GRANTS BY THE NUMBERS

CYCLE 1

9 grants awarded
55 concept paper submitted
US\$ 5.4 million committed

CYCLE 2

179 concept papers submitted
32 organizations invited to submit full applications
Awarded 2 grants to date

CYCLE 3

140 applications received
29 organizations invited to submit full applications
Full Application Submission
Date: October 15, 2015

Tour of Cycle 1 Project Launches



On February 5, CARE International launched its project Improving Community Climate Resilience in Nissan, Papua New Guinea. Ambassador Walter North (second from Left) presented the certificate of award to Daniel McCall, CARE International Country Director. Photo ©PACAM



On June 10, the Aquaculture Technologies of the Marshall Islands (ATMI) launched their Aquaculture Fisheries Project with beneficiaries in attendance. Photo ©PACAM



The Natural Resources Development Foundation's (NRDF) launch of "Adapting to Climate Change through Sustainable Forest Management" project allowed Stephen Suti to share details of their project with Junne Cosmas of PACAM (Left) and Winston Bowman of USAID (Right). Photo ©PACAM



Marine and Environmental Research Institute of Pohnpei (MERIP) launched their climate change adaptation project on March 25, 2015, Federated States of Micronesia. Photo © US Embassy/ P. Maloney



US Ambassador to Marshall Islands Thomas Armbruster visits fish cages to be installed in Majuro Lagoon at the PACAM grant project launch for the Aquaculture Technologies of the Marshall Islands (ATMI) on June 10. Photo ©PACAM



The College of Micronesia will work on its Climate Resilient Adaptation and Mainstreaming. U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Hugues Ogier, (Right) congratulates Dr. Muru Krishnapillai of the College of Micronesia-FSM on the USAID grant award. Photo ©PACAM



President of Fiji Ratu Epeli Naulatikau (Right) greets the PACAM Chief of Party Peter Collier with the US Ambassador Judith Cefkin (Center) to launch a grant to the University of Fiji to develop base maps of tropical aquatic resources in the Pacific. Photo ©PACAM



U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa, Mark Gilbert, presents certificate of award to the Matuaileoo Environment Trust, Inc. (METI). In photo, from Left to Right, are METI Executive Director Dr. Walter Vermeulen, Prime Minister of Samoa Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, USAID Regional Environment Director for Asia Alfred Nakatsuma, and U.S. Ambassador Gilbert. Photo ©PACAM

Namdrik Atoll Development Association (NADA) launched its project linking adaptation and livelihoods through pearl farming. US Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands Tom Armbruster (second from Left) presented the certificate of award. Photo ©PACAM

SNAPSHOT | PACAM's Cycle 1 Funded Projects

The nine Cycle I grants launched this year support adaptation to climate change impacts through a variety of strategies and approaches, including climate-smart agriculture techniques, innovative approaches to environmentally sustainable aquaculture, forestry management and policy initiatives to limit deforestation and flooding, creation of base maps of tropical aquatic resources in the Pacific, and even honeybee farming! Here are snapshots of the grants in each of the three Pacific regions.

Projects in Micronesia



Community members practicing climate-smart agriculture strategies, Federated States of Micronesia. Photo ©COM-FSM

PACAM awarded four grants to organizations in Micronesia in Cycle I. Two grantees, the Marine and Environmental Research Institute of Pohnpei (MERIP) and the College of Micronesia (COM-FSM), are implementing their projects in the Federated States of Micronesia. MERIP is working with communities in Pohnpei to increase income-generating options and reduce dependency on fishing by piloting small-scale aquaculture that will include farming giant clams, sponges, and coral. COM-FSM is addressing livelihoods and food security in Yap by training at least 200 community members on climate adaptation strategies, providing support to women entrepreneurs, and developing education packages.

In the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Namdrik Atoll Development Association (NADA) is assisting local pearl farmers to increase their pearl oyster capacity from 3,000 to 20,000 over the next two years. Reaching such capacity will accelerate progress towards finan-



Aquaculture to diversify livelihoods in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. Photo ©MERIP

cial sustainability, bringing much-needed income to the local community. In Majuro, Aquaculture Technologies of the Marshall Islands (ATMI) will be increasing yields of cost-efficient local fish feed to help boost the local aquaculture economy. Some of the expected outcomes of this project will include the increased capacity of 62 Marshallese to start their own fish farms, the development of 20 farms to produce fish feed, and the production of up to 2,000,000 pounds of fish.

Projects in Melanesia



Conservation International project, Papua New Guinea. Photo ©J. Morgan

Three Cycle I grants were awarded to organizations in the Melanesia region. Two grantees, CARE International and Conservation International (CI) are based in Papua New Guinea. By developing resource management plans and providing marine ecology training to more than 21 villages, CARE International will increase sustainable management of critical marine resources on the island atolls of Nissan and Pinepal in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. CI is working to increase awareness of climate change impacts through a more technology-based approach that consists of providing video production equipment, storytelling

training, and community action plans to four different communities.

In the Solomon Islands, the Natural Resources Development Foundation (NRDF) is assisting local communities to reduce their vulnerability to floods, droughts, and other climate-induced events by improving management and conservation of forest resources. The project includes training 10 communities in forest management, assisting and establishing income-generating activities, such as honeybee farming and timber production, and establishing money saving clubs for women.

Projects in Polynesia



University of Fiji's "Developing Base Maps of Tropical Aquatic Resources in the Pacific" Project Manager trains at the University of Florida. Photo ©UoF

PACAM awarded two Cycle I grants to institutions in countries managed by the Polynesia regional office. The University of Fiji is supporting the capacity of the Fijian government and the Fiji Islands through mapping and monitoring of two coastal ecosystems: the Votua Area, where coral reefs have experienced damage due to severe weather; and the Maui Bay, which has healthier reefs due to conservation practices. These maps will help compare and illustrate the human uses of ecosystems assisting climate change adaptation planning efforts and activities.

In an effort to address vulnerabilities linked to climate change in Samoa, the Matuaileoo Environment Trust, Inc. (METI) will train 50 residents from 50 Samoan villages in sustainable agriculture, living through whole foods, and in plant-based nutrition. These residents will then serve as health, education, and sustainable development workers and will disseminate this knowledge, as well as information about climate change and adaptation measures across 50 different villages.

Grant Achievements

The following summaries provide a few examples of the many grantee achievements to date.



ATMI's Growout Technician Carter Joram inspects the new open ocean cage "home" of *moi* in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Sustainable Farms in the Ocean

USAID-supported fish farmers in the Marshall Islands have successfully completed an experimental process for raising and transferring commercially valuable fish, known locally as *moi* (*Polydactylus sexfilis*) from on-shore farms to larger "homes" of open ocean cages. The 14,000 *moi* will continue growing for six months to reach a valuable market size before being harvested, increasing income for the fish farmers. The installation and use of the technology and open ocean cages was supported by a grant from USAID's Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM) to the Aquaculture Technologies of the Marshall Islands to provide Marshallese with skills and tools to develop livelihoods and adapt to the impacts of climate change.



New coral farmers are trained on coral growing techniques in lagoon-based farms in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

Sustainable Coral Farming Exports Surge in Micronesia

Through a grant from USAID's Pacific-American Climate Fund, the Marine and Environmental Research Institute of Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia has launched eight new coral farms well ahead of schedule in its plan to establish 15 farms over three years. The new lagoon-based farms have already shipped 9,696 pieces of live coral, nearly 97 percent of its annual goal on its fourth month of the project. This USAID grant supports the promotion of sustainable farming of giant clams and corals for the marine ornamental trade and sponges for the bath trade as a way for communities to expand their economic options in the face of a changing climate.



In Choiseul, Western Solomon Islands, forest owners take stock of their forest resources, an initial step to obtaining the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, the world standard of quality timber.

Forest Landowners Gear Up for FSC Certification

USAID-supported workshop in Solomon Islands trained 20 landowners on the Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC) timber grading system and quality control in the context of sustainable forest management. International demand for the Solomon Islands' timber is high due to its properties and appearance. However, overseas buyers are also concerned about the sustainable harvesting of timber. In order to meet this demand and improve local forest owners' ability to compete internationally while also conducting sustainable forestry practices, NRDF is working with local landowners to become FSC-certified timber producers. This training is part of a grant from Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM) to NRDF. Beyond this training, the project will assist local communities to reduce their vulnerability to floods, droughts, and other climate-induced events through improved sustainable management of forest resources and diversified livelihoods.

AN INTERVIEW

PACAM Regional Manager Praveen Lata recently spoke with Dr. Walter Vermeulen, Executive Director of Matuaileoo Environment Trust, Inc. (METI), Samoa

Praveen: Walter, can you tell us a bit about the project Matuaileoo Environment Trust Inc. (METI) is implementing with PACAM support?

Walter: METI's project is an integrated climate action project which over the next three years will involve 50 villages around Samoa. The goal of the project is to develop "resilient" communities that are able to face the predicted onslaught of extreme events due to climate change.

The communities have prepared for the project to unfold. The leaders of the activities at the village level are the *Taiala*, known as "pathbreakers" or frontline multidisciplinary workers who have been trained and deployed to start work in their villages.

Over 36 months of project implementation, a significant proportion of the target population will be trained in sustainable agriculture principles and techniques and develop a more ecologically attuned worldview. These practices will further be reinforced by the like-minded graduates forming farmer cooperatives, whose members will put into practice the permaculture lessons they have learned, specifically by creating individual "kitchen gardens" close to their homes. These kitchen gardens are primarily for household consumption and help with food supply during lean seasons.

However, if the kitchen gardens produce surplus, the project will further encourage the participating co-op members to sell the surplus produce in the local markets. The project will also assist co-op members to become registered as "certified organic growers" under a certification that METI will administer under the guidance of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

METI decided to make permaculture the pivotal activity in this project because I believe that addressing agriculture and food security is an important way to adapt to the impacts of climate change such as changing weather patterns, flooding, and drought.

Praveen: What are some of the climate-related challenges Samoan communities are facing?

Walter: Sea level rise is very apparent to communities. As a result, over the past 5-10 years, the construction of sea walls has become a frequent development activity around the country.

Additionally, there is a general awareness among the public that the intensity of cyclones is increasing. The last such event, Cyclone Evan in December 2012, caused extensive damage with loss of life. What impressed the population was the ferocity of the event, accompanied by tornado-like gusts never experienced before. These gusts uprooted century-old trees like the rubber trees along Apia's Beach Road.



The Matuaileoo Environment Trust Inc. (METI) will be working to develop climate change actions in fifty Samoan villages. Walter Vermeulen shows products from METI's farm to Alfred Nakatsuma (USAID/RDMA) Photo ©PACAM

Increased rainfall and extreme rainfall events also negatively affect crop production. This concern has prompted METI to ensure that demonstrations at its Vailele Demonstration Farm of best (Permaculture) practices will include physical protection techniques (of soils and crops) to protect against heavy downpours. These predicted impacts, combined with a high economy dependency on agriculture, are why we have a holistic approach, with a focus on permaculture.



Sea wall at Mulinuu, Western End of Apia.



Participants at a training course on sustainable agriculture, Samoa. Photo © METI

Praveen: Back to the project specifically. How does this project differ from other climate change adaptation projects in Samoa?

Walter: Well, I can tell you how it differs from our previous projects. METI has operated for 15 years at the grassroots level. This project incorporates our experience gained and lessons learned over this time! In the past, METI projects were more sector-focused. Our view now is that—to have a positive impact on communities—projects must be integrative. They also should aim to achieve multiple outcomes that reinforce each other and be conceived as a “bottom-up” endeavor, with the target populations being the main actors in the project. We are supported in this view by an American visionary, Don Beck Ph.D., who wrote: ‘The time is ripe for a new and more complex intelligence ... that has the capacity to integrate, align, and synergize all of the diverse approaches to create a holistic, multifaceted, and strategically focused effort across the wide front of education, health care, community development, economic enhancement, wealth creation, infrastructure construction, and systemic conflict reduction.’

The project is a civil society endeavor that stresses the importance of involving local people in project implementation. We are capitalizing on the *taiala*—Samoa for “pathbreaker”—in our efforts. METI has trained these individuals to professional standards thanks to METI’s training program, which incorporates experiential learning techniques.

Praveen: Can you tell us more about the *taiala*?

Walter: *Taiala* come from a range of backgrounds. Some are chiefs while others are retired public servants or housewives, but they have all been selected by the village elders to be trained. And what they all have in common is that they are sons and daughters of the villages in which they live and work and thanks to the respect and trust they command, are people who others will listen to, provided—and this is very important—they have been well trained and infused with the passion to want to help their neighbors. In this way, they can become agents of change.

The work of the *taiala* includes encouraging people to regard themselves as the

First Cycle-2 Awards Announced

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA/Samoa)

Grant Title: Community Disaster Management and Livelihood Development

Objectives: Reduce the vulnerabilities of selected Samoan communities to climate change effects through disaster risk management and income generation diversification adaptation measures

Location: Upolu and Savaii Islands, Samoa

Grant Amount: \$509,933

Duration: 30 months

Institute of Sustainable Futures - University of Technology Sydney (ISF-UTS)

Grant Title: Dynamic Adaptive Management Pathways in the Outer Islands Water Sector

Objectives: Enhance the adaptive capacity of community-based water management systems in the outer islands of Kiribati to ensure sufficient water for basic health under a changing climate.

Location: Kiribati

Grant Amount: \$184,175

Duration: 24 months

World wide Fund for Nature—Pacific

Grant Title: Strengthening Governance and Resource Management for Climate-Resilient Communities in Fiji

Objectives: Restore, protect, and sustain the management of threatened ecosystems and the services they provide for target communities.

Location: Nailaga and Nacula Districts in Ba Province

Grant Amount: \$509, 238

Duration: 30 months

principal actors in their lives, or in the words of Md. Anisur Raman, a Harvard-trained Bangladeshi who wrote “People’s Self-Development,” to “stand up with self-esteem, develop a critical understanding of the conditions of their lives and assert themselves ... to meet life’s challenges.”

USAID and PACAM Team Updates

The **PACAM Team** recently had a “changing of the guard” at **USAID**. Our Contracting Officer’s Representative (COR) for much of Years 1 and 2, Winston Bowman, left USAID for new adventures in Washington, DC. We want to thank Winston for his direction, guidance, and help and wish him the very best in his new position. Sharon Gulick, an Environment Officer previously with USAID/ Jamaica, has taken over the reins as the COR and looks forward to meeting and working with all of the program’s partners.



Outgoing COR Winston Bowman (left) shares advice with incoming COR Sharon Gulick. Photo ©PACAM/ P. Deeks

The Pacific-American Climate Fund has also solidified its management team. In the Program Office in Manila, William Jatulan has begun as Senior Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Coordinator. Hailing from Cebu, Philippines, William has worked internationally on development projects for USAID, the Asian Development Bank, and the Australian Government.



USAID-funded projects, and civil society on several continents.

PACAM also welcomed Zachary (Zac) Hubbell to the team as Senior Grants Manager. Zac has a great deal of experience in grants management, project audit, donor compliance, project accounting, project start-up, implementation, and close-out of international development programs in more than 25 countries in Asia, Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America.



Payton Deeks has come on board at the Program’s Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP). Prior to working with PACAM, Payton worked on USAID programs, managing environment and natural resources management portfolios. Payton also served in the USAID Mission in Jakarta, Indonesia.



Malou Luces joined the Manila team as the Outreach and Communications Coordinator with over 25 years of experience in strategic communications and outreach, advocacy, and public relations. She has worked with governments, communities, women, the UN,

Our most recent addition is Lara Studzinski as the Regional Fund Manager for Micronesia. Lara, a US national, brings a wealth of experience working in the Pacific, having spent six years working for the Secretariat of the Pacific Community as well as additional time with the Peace Corps.



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 twelve 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
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
Annex 2 Building, 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
Lara Studzinski
lstudzinski@pgrd.org