



Environment, Energy and Climate Change

The Coastal Community Adaptation Project (C-CAP)

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

GOAL

Through the five-year implementation of the Coastal Community Adaptation Project (C-CAP), USAID will help build the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities in the Pacific Island region; with increased capacity for climate-smart decision-making, communities will be positioned to adapt to the short and longer term effects of climate change.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

C-CAP is building community resilience to climate change in the Pacific region by:

- rehabilitating and constructing new, small-scale community infrastructure;
- building capacity for community engagement for disaster prevention and preparedness; and
- integrating climate resilient policies and practices into long-term land use plans and building standards.



PROJECT BACKGROUND

Pacific Island countries, some of which stand just a few meters above sea level, comprise one of the most vulnerable regions in the world to climate change. The nature-based livelihoods and diverse cultures of these island nations are being challenged, and in some cases overwhelmed, by rising sea levels, air and ocean temperatures, acidification levels, and shifting rainfall and storm patterns—effects of climate change projected to worsen over the next 100 years.

OVERVIEW

Through C-CAP, USAID will support local-level climate change interventions in 12 Pacific Island countries: Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. In more than 90 communities, USAID will increase local knowledge and adaptive capacity through community-based training. When applied, these forward-looking interventions will increase the resilience of Pacific Island coastal communities to the projected impacts of climate change.

PROJECT COMPONENT I: Rehabilitating and constructing new, small-scale community infrastructure

C-CAP is leading coastal communities through a participatory process to: identify current and projected climate change impacts; map existing community infrastructure assets; prioritize infrastructure-related adaptation needs; and implement infrastructure adaptations designed to structurally withstand the impacts of climate change and functionally increase community resilience to climate change. Through risk mapping and vulnerability assessment activities, communities develop awareness of climate change adaptation issues and approaches, and acquire fundamental decision-making skills, setting them on a course to proactively manage their climate change risks and adaptation interventions beyond the duration of the project.

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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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C-CAP COUNTRY MOBILIZERS

Country Mobilizers (CMs) in Fiji, PNG, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu—whose climate change expertise and cultural acumen have made them ideal ambassadors for C-CAP—coordinate with the C-CAP team to complete participatory information-gathering, analysis, and decision-making work that will underpin component I activities.

PROJECT DURATION 3-5 YEARS

YR 1 to 3: Nov 2012 – Oct 2015

OPTION YR 4: Nov 2015 – Oct 2016

OPTION YR 5: Nov 2016 – Oct 2017

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PROJECT COMPONENT 2: Building capacity for community engagement for disaster prevention and preparedness

USAID will help coastal communities build upon their existing and traditional disaster management approaches, and adopt new strategies intended to mitigate risks presented by the region's new and predicted climate reality. New risk management strategies may involve implementation of disaster drills and other risk mitigation exercises, and building of networks that link communities to national and regional disaster management services.

PROJECT COMPONENT 3: Integrating climate resilient policies and practices into long-term land use plans and building standards

USAID will facilitate participatory land use mapping and planning with C-CAP partner communities, and help them initiate collaborative coastal zone planning efforts with local governments. USAID will propose improvements to current building codes to maximize their applicability to the infrastructure typical of the region's coastal communities, thereby promoting standards that increase the structural integrity of assets.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Entering C-CAP's second year, USAID is continuing risk identification, capacity building, infrastructure adaptation, disaster preparedness and land use planning implementation in 22 "Year 1 communities" across Fiji (5), PNG (5), Samoa (5), Tonga (5) and Vanuatu (2). In "Year 2", project programming will be launched in 20 new communities (five per country) across Fiji, PNG, Samoa and Tonga, and 8 new communities in Vanuatu. C-CAP also extends to new communities in Kiribati, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, and Nauru.

C-CAP's decision support tool for adaptation of community assets—the Infrastructure Prioritization Index (IPI)—is positioning communities to methodically analyze asset vulnerability to climate change and identify their highest-priority infrastructure needs for adaptation. More than 25 communities have already formed agreement of their priority adaptation infrastructure adaptation interventions, which include drainage and flood control system upgrades, rainwater catchment system improvements, cyclone-proofing of community buildings, and coastal protection and erosion control projects. The design, tendering and construction of identified activities is underway. C-CAP's "Year 2 communities" will also apply the IPI in 2014, and by the end of the project, up to 90 communities will take ownership of this decision-support tool.

As the C-CAP team completes infrastructure adaptation projects and launches disaster preparedness and land use planning activities across the "Year 1 communities," USAID will simultaneously begin risk mapping and infrastructure prioritization in "Year 2 communities." This will extend the reach- and adaptation resources and tools- of C-CAP across nine Pacific Island countries.