

GCCA +

THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS INITIATIVE



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the European Union

SCALING UP PACIFIC ADAPTATION (SUPA)

Tonga Project Design Consultation 28 & 29 August 2019

Fanga Church Hall, Nuku'alofa, Tonga

Consultation Report



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



USP
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE
SOUTH PACIFIC

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Executive Summary

The Global Climate Change Alliance Plus - Scaling up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) is about scaling up climate change adaptation measures in specific sectors supported by knowledge management and capacity building. The 4.5 year project (2019-2023) is funded with EUR 14.89 million from the European Union (EU) and implemented by The Pacific Community (SPC) in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and The University of the South Pacific (USP), in collaboration with the governments and peoples of Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu.

The project design consultation took place in Nuku'alofa, Tonga on 28th and 29th August 2019. Participants at the consultation included town officers and youth representatives from communities in western Tongatapu and staff of the Department of Climate Change. The Civil Society Forum of Tonga and GCCA+ SUPA team from SPC were also represented at the meeting.

The consultation was successful in achieving all the objectives. The GCCA+ SUPA team from SPC provided an overview of the project including the key result areas covered by the three implementing partners – SPC, SPREP and USP. A key message that was reiterated throughout the consultation was that the project will not be able to address all the climate-related issues in western Tongatapu but the outputs from the project can inform planning and implementation of future projects. The Project Coordinator for the EU-GIZ Adapting to Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (EU-GIZ ACSE) project also presented on the lessons learnt from the ACSE project. The first day of the consultation included a field trip to western Tongatapu for participants to see the coastal protection measures implemented by the EU-GIZ ACSE project which included a low sea-wall, nurseries and a revetment.

The importance of coastal survey/assessments was discussed as it will inform future planning and proposals. Group discussions also highlighted this and it was reiterated that while the assessment provided under the GCCA+ SUPA project would cover the entire coastline, the on-the-ground interventions would cover only a few select communities. The participants were also informed that the first six months of 2020 would be focused on the assessment and the team would have to meet with them again in Q3 2020 to select the on-the-ground measures based on recommendations and timelines proposed from the assessment.

Community representatives were given an opportunity to discuss coastal issues faced in their communities and what was being done to address these issues. The community representatives also prioritised activities for future projects. The main coastal issues highlighted by the communities are:

- Flooding and coastal erosion; and
- Reduction in mangroves due to human and livestock actions.

The recommendations put forward by the communities include:

- Conduct coastal surveys or assessments of Western Tongatapu;
- Construction of coastal protection measures;
- Coastal replanting and awareness on the value of coastal plants such as mangroves; and
- Fencing livestock such as pigs.

Based on the issues and recommendations put forward from the consultation, the GCCA+ SUPA team worked with the Director, Department of Climate Change, to finalise the activities and budget for each key result area under the GCCA+ SUPA project in Tonga.

Background



Group photo of participants for the project design consultation

Introduction

Climate change and natural disasters are among the greatest challenges jeopardising and undermining the ability of all countries, in particular Pacific countries, to achieve the sustainable development goals and reduce poverty. The Global Climate Change Alliance Plus – Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) project falls under the GCCA+ flagship initiative, which has three priorities: (i) mainstreaming climate change issues into poverty reduction and development efforts; (ii) increasing resilience to climate related stresses and shocks; and (iii) Supporting the formulation and implementation of concrete and integrated sector-based climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

The GCCA+ SUPA project is about scaling up climate change adaptation measures in specific sectors supported by knowledge management and capacity building. The 4.5-year project (2019 – 2023) is funded with EUR14.89 million from the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) in collaboration with the governments and peoples of Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu.

The overall objective is to enhance climate change adaptation and resilience within ten Pacific Island countries. The specific objective is to strengthen the implementation of sector-based, but integrated, climate change and disaster risk management strategies and plans.

The three key outputs for the GCCA+ SUPA project are:

1. Strengthen strategic planning at national levels;
2. Enhance the capacity of sub-national government stakeholders to build resilient communities; and
3. Scale up resilient development measures in specific sectors.

The activities will adopt a gender-sensitive and rights-based approach throughout and will take into account lessons learnt and wise practices from the regional, national, sub-national and community-based projects and programmes implemented over the last decade.

The Action will contribute to the *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP)*, the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, the *Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, and the *Sustainable Development Goals*, especially Goal 2: zero hunger, Goal 3: good health and well-being, Goal 6: clean water and sanitation and Goal 13: climate action, Goal 14: life below water and Goal 15: life on land.



Tonga developed its first climate change policy in 2006 and this served to define the direction and responsibilities of the government and relevant stakeholders in Tonga on climate change. Recognising the need for integration of climate change into development planning, Tonga developed the *Joint National Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management* (JNAP 1) 2010-2015. With assistance from the European Union through the Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project, Tonga revised its climate change policy in 2016. The goal of the revised Tonga Climate Change Policy is “A resilient Tonga by 2035.” In 2018, Tonga launched JNAP 2 (2018-2028) which is a revision of JNAP 1. The Tonga Climate Change Policy and JNAP 2 are closely aligned and form a coherent, strategically focused ‘whole of Tonga’ approach to building resilience over the next decade. Through the Tonga Climate Change Policy and JNAP 2, Tonga is taking necessary steps to make its own national plans a reality and meet its obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other regional and international agreements.

By way of coordination, Tonga has established its National Climate Change Coordination Committee (NCCCC) which provides high level oversight, policy guidance and direction in the implementation of the JNAP 2. The focal point for all climate resilient activities in Tonga is the Department of Climate Change with the JNAP Secretariat taking a lead role in coordination. Tonga has also established a JNAP Technical Team which advises the NCCCC on technical matters relating to JNAP 2 implementation. The JNAP Technical Team and the Climate Change NGO Forum form the working group for JNAP 2.

Key challenges to adaptation in Tonga include:

- Raising public awareness about climate change risks;
- Technical capacity constraints in permanent positions to take on the task of managing climate change risks over the near and long term;
- Retention of skilled personnel in country through appropriate levels of remuneration and other means;
- Ensuring that gender-sensitivity and vulnerabilities of different community members are addressed in the implementation of climate change activities

The project design consultation for the GCCA+ SUPA was held at the Fanga Church Hall, Nuku’alofa, Tonga on 28th and 29th August 2019.

Consultation objectives

The consultations had the following objectives:

1. Confirmation of communities for GCCA+ SUPA project and activities
2. Prioritisation of activities for confirmed communities under the project

Consultation agenda

The agenda is presented as Annex 1.

Participants

The participants included:

- Town officers and youth representatives from communities in western Tongatapu;
- Civil Society Forum of Tonga;
- Staff of Department of Climate Change; and

- GCCA+ SUPA team from SPC

The list of participants is presented as Annex 2.

Consultation methodology

The consultation workshop was opened by Ms. Lu'isa Tuiafitu Malolo, Director of Climate Change, Tonga. She highlighted the impacts of climate change on all sectors in Tonga and outlined the objectives of the project in Tonga and the importance of including the communities in all aspects of the project including planning. The Director stressed that the project will not be able to resolve all the climate-related issues in the communities but the lessons learnt and the good work can help in planning and implementing future projects. She also informed the meeting that Tonga was the 2019 recipient of the Global Energy Award as a result of the exchange program between Palau and Tonga in 2015 which was funded by the Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project.

Dr. Gillian Cambers, Project Manager GCCA+ SUPA, SPC also delivered some remarks on behalf of the project and she highlighted that this is the second coastal protection project in Tonga by the team at SPC. She reiterated that the project funds are limited and the project will not be able to address all the issues but there are other projects coming in that can build on from what GCCA+ SUPA will do. Mrs. Titilia Rabuatoka, Project Implementation Officer, GCCA+ SUPA introduced the project to participants and Mr. Manu Manuofetoa, Project Coordinator, EU-GIZ ACSE provided an overview and lessons learnt from the project activities in western Tongatapu. The first day concluded with a field trip to western Tongatapu to view the EU-GIZ ACSE project sites.

The importance of coastal survey/assessments was discussed as it will inform future planning and proposals. Group discussions also highlighted this and it was reiterated that while the assessment provided under the GCCA+ SUPA project would cover the entire coastline, the on-the-ground interventions would cover only a few select communities given the limited funding. The participants were also informed that the first six months of 2020 would be focused on the assessment and the team would have to meet with them again in Q3 2020 to select the on-the-ground measures based on recommendations and timelines proposed from the assessment.

The retention of traditional knowledge of the coastline was also discussed and it was agreed that this was a potential activity for the GCCA+ SUPA project as it could involve the elderly and youths and could contribute to increased awareness and appreciation of traditional knowledge. It was confirmed during the meeting that community development plans were presently being reviewed with support from the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Community representatives were given an opportunity to discuss coastal issues faced in their communities and what was being done to address these issues. The community representatives also prioritised activities for future projects. The main coastal issues highlighted by the communities are:

- Flooding and coastal erosion; and
- Reduction in mangroves due to human and livestock actions.

The recommendations put forward by the communities include:

- Conduct coastal surveys or assessments of western Tongatapu;
- Construction of coastal protection measures;
- Coastal replanting and awareness on the value of coastal plants such as mangroves; and
- Fencing livestock such as pigs.

The two-day meeting was concluded by Ms. Malolo who thanked the participants and the GCCA+ SUPA team.



L-R: Dr. Gillian Cambers, Manu Manuofetoa, Sheik Irfaan at the revetment constructed by the EU-GIZ ACSE project

Consultation outcomes

- Identified the following key activities for the project:
 1. Assessment of the western Tongatapu coastline (Niutoua to Ha’atafu) and proposed small-scale coastal protection measures within a specific budget.
 2. Impact assessment of existing coastal protection interventions in eastern and western Tongatapu.
 3. Implement small-scale coastal protection measures based on recommendations from the assessment.
 4. Increase awareness activities e.g. support Climate Change Week.
 5. Facilitate the sharing of traditional knowledge relating to coastal issues.
- Following the consultation, the GCCA+ SUPA team worked with the Director, Department of Climate Change, to finalise the activities and budget for each key result area under the GCCA+ SUPA project in Tonga.

Planning the next steps for GCCA+ SUPA

Tentative timelines are given below.

- **End of September:** Project Design Document signed.
- **End of November:** Grant Agreement for National Coordinator and Project Finance Assistant signed.
- **Beginning of December:** Consultancy contract signed for assessment of western Tongatapu coastline.
- **End of December:** Grant Agreement for activities signed.
- **Q1 2020:** Impact assessments conducted in Kolovai, Manuka and Kolonga.
- **Q1 and Q2 2020:** Engineering, geological and social assessments conducted in western Tongatapu.
- **Q3 2020:** Meeting to prioritise small-scale coastal protection measures based on recommendations from assessment.
- **2021 and 2022:** Small-scale coastal protection measures implemented in select communities.

Consultation evaluation

Participants completed individual evaluation forms; these have been compiled in Annex 3. The meeting objectives were met and 89% of respondents felt engaged and that their input was given full consideration. Concerning expectations of the consultation, 89% expressed that the consultation had met their expectations. Comments given by the participants were encouraging and educational:

“Malo aupito!”

“Need to translate evaluation form into Tongan language.”

“Allow old people from communities to participate.”

“Thank you for helping us to resolve some issues we face due to climate change.”

Annex 1: Agenda



Global Climate Change Alliance Plus – Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) Project Tonga Project Design Consultation 28-29 August 2019, Fanga, Nuku'alofa

Workshop objectives:

3. Confirmation of communities for GCCA+ SUPA project and activities
4. Prioritisation of activities for confirmed communities under the project

DAY 1 – 28 August 2019		Facilitator
8.30am	Registration	
9.00am	Opening Prayer	Reverend 'Asaeli Tu'inauvai
	Welcoming and Opening Remarks	Ms. Lu'isa Tuiafitu Malolo (Director of Climate Change)
9.25am	Remarks from the GCCA + SUPA Project	Dr. Gillian Cambers (Project Manager, GCCA+ SUPA)
	Vote of Thanks	Mr. Uikelotu Vunga (Climate Change Principal Officer)
10.00am	Morning Tea and group photo	
10.30am	Introduction to GCCA+ SUPA Project Discussion	Mrs. Titilia Rabuatoka (Project Implementation Officer, GCCA+ SUPA)
11.00am	Overview of the ACSE project in Western Tongatapu and lessons learnt Discussion	Mr. Manu Manuofetoa (ACSE Project Coordinator)
11.30am	Outline of the key result areas (KRAs) for GCCA+ SUPA in Tonga	Ms. Lu'isa Tuiafitu Malolo (Director for Climate Change)
12.00pm	Field trip to Western Tongatapu to view the existing coastal protection interventions	All
1.30pm	Lunch	
2.30pm	Continue with field trip	All
4.00pm	Return to Nuku'alofa	
DAY 2 – 29 August 2019		Facilitator
8.30am	Registration	
9.00am	Review of coastal protection issues faced in Western Tongatapu	Ms. Lu'isa Tuiafitu Malolo (Director for Climate Change)
10.00am	Morning Tea	
10.30am	<i>Small group discussions in prioritised communities:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the main coastal issues your community is facing? • What has already been done to address these issues? • What is your community doing to address these issues? • List three prioritised activities by future projects? 	
1.00pm	Lunch	
2.00pm	Groups present back to the main group	
3.00pm	Afternoon Tea	
4.00pm	Next steps for GCCA+ SUPA in Tonga and Closing	Dr. Cambers and Ms. Malolo
	Workshop evaluation	
	End of Workshop	

Annex 2: List of Participants

Global Climate Change Alliance Plus – Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) Project

Project Design Consultation

28-29 August 2019, Fanga, Nuku'alofa

PARTICIPANTS LIST

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8	Malolo Tupou	M	Town Officer: Puke	7766344
9	Siosiu Holani	M	Town Officer: Kuahefonua	7735525
10	Kefilina Vaea	F	Youth rep: Kanokupolu	7784614
11	Melelimoni Talanoa	F	Youth rep: Ha'atafu	7762814
12	Keasi Pongi	F	Civil Society Forum of Tonga	keasi.pongi7@gmail.com

No.	Name	Gender	Organisation	Email / Phone
13	Siola'a Fotu	M	Kolovai Community	
14	Sila Tautui'aki	M	Town Officer: 'Ahau	
15	Luisi Fifita	M	Town Officer: Kolovai	8493716
16	Samisoni Felioko	M	Puke Community	fsamisoni@gmail.com
17	Sio Tu'iano	M	Town Officer: Kolomotu'a	7761215
18	Viliani Faleafa	M	Kolomotu'a Community	7784602
19	Pauli Fotu	M	Fo'ui Community	8450475
20	Metui Taukialao	M	Kanokupolu Community	7748236
21	Tevita Piukana	M	Ha'atafu Community	8799909
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35	Siosi Fifita	F	Department of Climate Change	26514
36	'Ahau Mataele	F	Department of Climate Change	26514
37	Gillian Cambers	F	GCCA+ SUPA, SPC	gillianc@spc.int
38	Sheik Irfaan	M	GCCA+ SUPA, SPC	sheiki@spc.int
39	Titilia Rabuatoka	F	GCCA+ SUPA, SPC	titiliar@spc.int

Annex 3: Summary of consultation evaluation

Project Design Consultation

Total responses: Male – 6; Female – 3

1. Meeting objective	1 (lowest)	2	3	4	5 (highest)
On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, to what extent did the meeting achieve its objective?			1	1	7
2. Participation	1 (lowest)	2	3	4	5 (highest)
On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, did you feel engaged and that your input was given full consideration?			1	1	7
3. Expectations	1 (lowest)	2	3	4	5 (highest)
On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, did the consultation meet your expectations?			1	1	7
Comments (if any): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Malo aupito!</i> • <i>Thank you.</i> • <i>Need to translate evaluation form into Tongan language.</i> • <i>Allow old people from communities to participate.</i> • <i>Thank you for helping us to resolve some issues we face due to climate change.</i> 					