

Cook Island



Country Brief

Project Site Activities

Aitutaki Island was identified as the project site through the Secretariat of Pacific Communities (SPC) selection process for the Cook Islands. In keeping with the scope of work assigned for the University of the South Pacific (USP), our project component will focus on building and strengthening the capacity of local government and community stakeholders.

Progress

Activities		Status
Desktop Review	✓	Completed
Stakeholder Consultation – PNA Report	✓	Completed
Outreach and Awareness Raising	✓	On-going
Identification of Change Agents	✓	On-going
Consultation with Ministries	✓	On-going
Identification of Training Needs	✓	Completed
Training as per the identified need	X	Yet to start
Identification of local development plan	✓	On-going
Implementation of development plans	X	Yet to start

Government Ministry Consultations

At the inception phase of the project, consultations were held with relevant stakeholders. SPC, the Climate Change Division of the Office of the Prime Minister, the Office of Pa Enuu/Island Governments, Cook Islands Tertiary Training Institute, the Cook Islands National Council of Women, the Aitutaki Island Council, and executive team of the Aitutaki Island Government to ensure that the USP activities are aligned with existing and upcoming plans and programs of these ministries/departments and community groups. The exercise encouraged buy-in and participation.

All officials and informal agencies met tendered their commitment to the project.

Desktop Review

The desktop review aimed at providing a snapshot of the status of resilience and climate change planning and management capacity in the island community and within the Island Government/Council structures.

The outcome of the review provided an outline to implement the Participatory Needs Assessment (PNA). Stakeholder consultations were completed in 2020 and were reviewed by the island community and leaders earlier this year.

Local Development Plans/Island Strategic Development Plans

The most recent community development plan for Aitutaki remains the 2011 plan.

In recent times, Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC) commissioned an infrastructure plan. The plan reiterated the deterioration of lagoon health and water supply quality for drinking in Aitutaki. It highlighted that tourism development was restricting coastal access and low coordination of planning and coordination efforts. The plan also noted the lack of local people with appropriate qualifications and experience and limited higher education pathway opportunities.

In the upcoming months, the project will work with the Pa Enuu/Island Government Unit and the Emergency Management Unit to develop their next community sustainable island development plan to integrate climate change planning and DRM into the plan.



Challenges and Solutions

The key challenge has been maintaining a working rapport with the island leaders and community and working with Suva to provide outputs aligned with expectations.

Financial Summary

Item/Activity	Total Budget Allocation (EUR)	Year 1 &2 Actual (EUR)	Balance (EUR)
(1.2.1) Research & Community Officer	79,931	30,130	49,801
(1.4) Total Office Costs	10,625	-	10,625
(2.1) Mobilisation and outreach on climate and disaster resilience with local area stakeholders in intervention areas	21,000	5,387	15,613
(2.2) Provision of training in resilient development to local area stakeholders	16,500		16,500
(2.3) Mainstream and integrate climate change and disaster risk management in sub-national sustainable development plans e.g. island plans	15,500		15,500
(2.4) Enhance the capacity to implement, monitor, and evaluate sub-national sustainable development plans e.g. island plans	10,656		10,656
Total	154,212	35,517	118,695