



**Pacific Community (SPC)**

**Cook Islands Government**

**GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS:  
SCALING UP PACIFIC ADAPTATION (GCCA+ SUPA) PROJECT**

**PROJECT DESIGN DOCUMENT  
Output 3**

**Enhancing a Climate Resilient Marine Sector in the  
Cook Islands**

**July 2020**

## **Enhancing a Climate Resilient Marine Sector in the Cook Islands**

This design document describes the framework for Cook Islands' activities under Output 3 “Scale up resilient development measures in specific sectors” of the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus - Scaling up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) Project. The Output 3 activities, described here for Cook Islands, will be implemented in conjunction with related activities under Output 1 “Strengthen strategic planning at national levels” and Output 2 “Enhance the capacity of sub-national government stakeholders to build resilient communities” of the GCCA+ SUPA project.

Scaling up in the context of the GCCA+ SUPA Project is about enhancing, expanding, replicating and/or adding a complementary approach to existing, successful climate change adaptation interventions. The project will not set up demonstration projects but will instead use the lessons learnt from demonstration projects and apply them to scale up sector resilience.

The Cook Islands Government has selected the marine resources sector as their focus for Output 3. The overall objective of the project is to enhance climate change adaptation and resilience in the marine sector. The specific objective is to strengthen adaptive management of marine systems through strengthened, climate-focussed monitoring, education and awareness. The two key result areas are:

- (1) Upgrade of the Aitutaki Marine Research Centre (AMRC) to facilitate research, monitoring and education purposes on Aitutaki; and
- (2) Integrate climate awareness through traditional knowledge for the marine sector into environmental education programmes and management.

Recent data collection indicates that Aitutaki has the lowest reef building coral cover in the Southern Group, and over the past 30 years has experienced major declines in important marine resources. The combination of climate-driven and human-derived stressors exacerbate impacts on the marine environment, especially for shallow coral reef ecosystems such as those in Aitutaki.

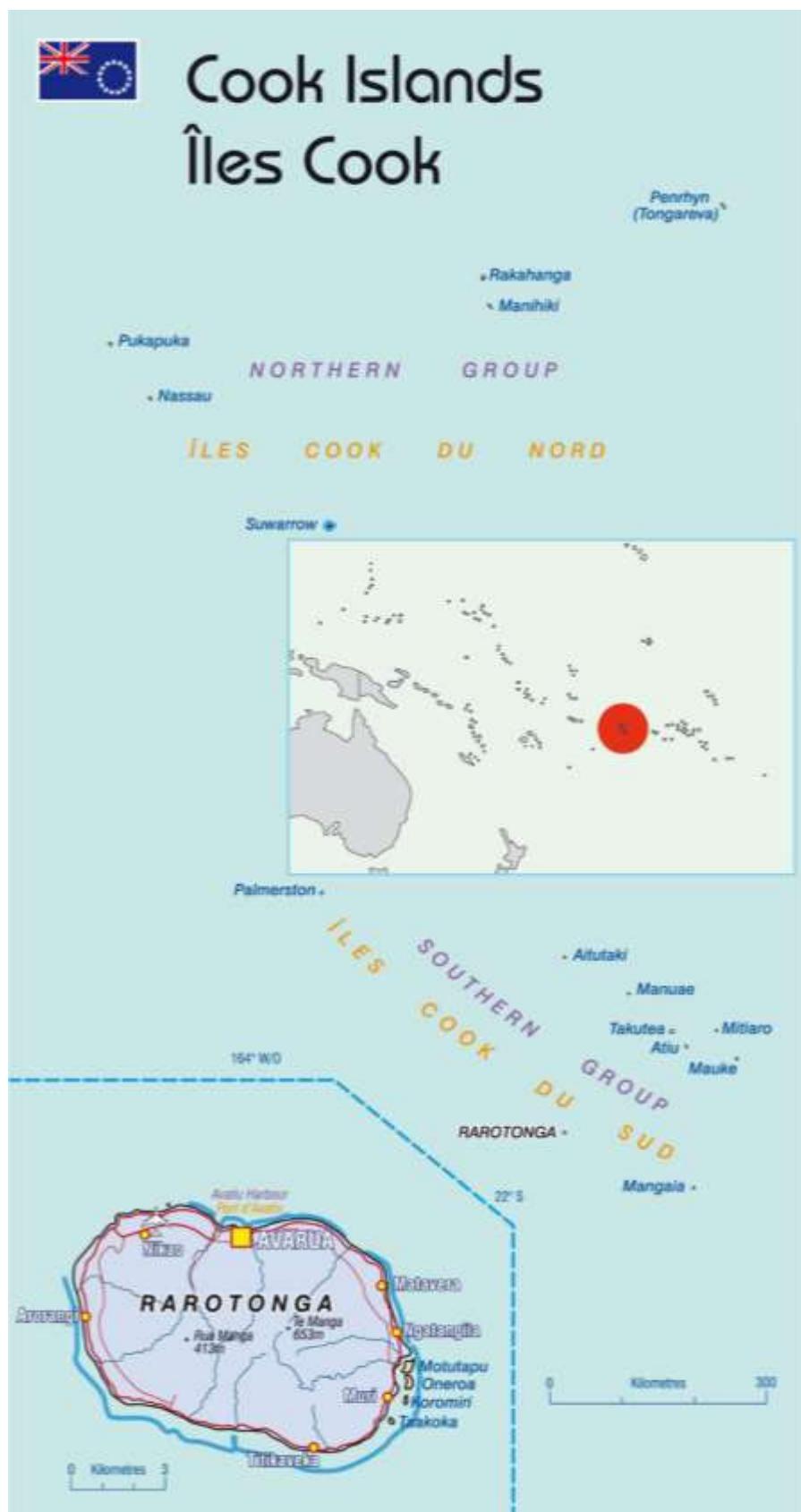
The project will upgrade the AMRC to better cater for research, monitoring and education that enhances resilience building; strengthen data collection, reporting and adaptive management within the marine sector and improve the awareness and understanding of climate-related issues and the impacts on the marine environment. This work will include upgrade of the AMRC facility infrastructure and purchase of basic research equipment and electronics.

To ensure sustainability of the implemented activities, an initial 5-year AMRC operational plan will be developed and incorporated into the Ministry of Marine Resources’ business plan. The project will also integrate climate awareness, resilience and adaptation through the integration of climate resilience and traditional knowledge for the marine sector into extra-curricular school programmes.

The project will incorporate a holistic approach, involving departments responsible for climate change adaptation, marine resources, and wherever possible civil society. The project is about enhancing the resilience of people and their marine environment and in this respect a people-centred approach is adopted throughout the design and implementation. The project will directly benefit 7,000 people and a further 6,000 indirectly.

A consultation to inform this Project Design Document was held in November 2019. The implementation period of this project will commence on the date of signature of this Project Design Document and end on 31 December 2022. The project will be implemented by the Climate Change Cook Islands in collaboration with the Ministry of Marine Resources and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management. The project is consistent with the Te Kaveinga Nui National Sustainable Development Plan (2016-2020) and Cook Islands Climate Change Policy (2018-2028) which promotes the sustainable management of terrestrial and marine resources.

## Map of Cook Islands



## **List of Abbreviations**

AMRC	Aitutaki Marine Research Centre
CCCI	Climate Change Cook Islands
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific, Industrial Research Organisation (Australia)
DCD	Development Coordination Division
EU	European Union
EUR	Euros
FRDP	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
GCCA: PSIS	Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States project
GCCA+SUPA	Global Climate Change Alliance Plus - Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation
KRA	Key result area
MFEM	Ministry of Finance and Economic Management
MMR	Ministry of Marine Resources
RENI	European Union – North Pacific - Readiness for El Niño project
RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SPC	Pacific Community
SPC-GEM	Pacific Community Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USP	The University of the South Pacific

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## **Signature Page**

The contents of this Project Design Document are endorsed by:

### **For Climate Change/OMP**

Name & Position	Signature	Date
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### **For Ministry of Marine Resources**

Name & Position	Signature	Date
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### **For Ministry of Finance & Economic Management**

Name & Position	Signature	Date
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### **For Pacific Community**

Name & Position	Signature	Date
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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This design document describes the framework for Cook Islands' activities under Output 3 “Scale up resilient development measures in specific sectors” of the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus - Scaling up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) Project. The Output 3 activities, described here for Cook Islands, will be implemented in conjunction with related activities under Output 1 “Strengthen strategic planning at national levels” and Output 2 “Enhance the capacity of sub-national government stakeholders to build resilient communities” of the GCCA+ SUPA project. The Cook Islands Government has selected the marine resources sector as their focus for Output 3.

This section of the design document describes the background to Cook Islands and the background to the GCCA+ SUPA Project.

### **Background to Cook Islands**

#### **Geographical Setting**

The Cook Islands comprise 15 islands, with the high volcanic island of Rarotonga the centre of government and commerce. The Cook Islands is spread over 2 million square kilometres and is situated northeast of New Zealand and between American Samoa and French Polynesia. Geographically and, to a certain extent culturally, the nation is divided into two groups: the southern group, comprising the islands of Aitutaki, Atiu, Mangaia, Mauke, Mitiaro, Rarotonga, Manuae (an uninhabited atoll) and Takutea (an uninhabited sand cay); and the northern group, comprising the islands of Manihiki, Palmerston, Penrhryn, Pukapuka, Suwarro (atolls) and Nassau, which are relatively isolated and less developed. The majority of the population live on Rarotonga. The population of Cook Islands is 17,434 (2016). Key development challenges for Cook Islands include its narrow economic base, limited natural resources, fragile environment, shortage of skilled labour and relatively remote location.

#### **Vulnerability and Climate Change Projections for Cook Islands**

Climate projections for Cook Islands based on the global climate models show that for the period to 2100:

- There is *very high confidence* in the direction of long-term change in a number of key climate variables, namely an increase in mean and extremely high temperatures, sea level and ocean acidification.
- There is *high confidence* that the frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall events will increase.
- There is *medium confidence* that the incidence of drought will decrease slightly.
- There is *medium confidence* that the frequency of tropical cyclones will decrease, and the long-term rainfall will remain approximately the same.

(These climate projections are based on the 2014 Australian Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO Report: Climate variability, extremes and changes in the Western Tropical Pacific: New science and updated country reports).

These changes in climate are likely to exacerbate existing marine-related issues in the Cook Islands.

## **National Policies and Strategies**

Climate change resilience and sustainable livelihoods are among the key priorities for the Cook Islands and critical to achieve various policy and strategic objectives which contribute to the sustainable development goals (SDGs). Among the key policies are the following:

- Te Kaveinga Nui National Sustainable Development Plan (2016-2020) which articulates the national vision and development outcomes for Cook Islands including but not limited to sustainable management of oceans, lagoons and marine resources.
- Cook Islands Climate Change Policy (2018-2028) which is based on a multi-sectoral, inclusive and equitable approach to climate change.
- The Cook Islands 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint National Action Plan (2016-2020) which aims to strengthen climate and disaster resilience to protect lives, livelihoods, economic, infrastructural, cultural and environmental assets in the Cook Islands using a collaborative and sectoral approach.
- Ministry of Marine Resources Strategic Plan (2017-2021) which strives for excellent stewardship of Cook Islands' marine resources through sustainable management of marine resources, increased food security and maintaining traditional and cultural links with the marine environment.

## **Related Projects and Activities**

- Pa Enua Action for Resilient Livelihoods (PEARL) – The three-year project which started in 2018 aims to build and implement an integrated approach to further increase the adaptive capacity of remote island communities and ecosystems to climate change impacts.
- Piloting the development of climate change teaching units for primary school level at Avarua Primary School – Over the period 2018 to 2019, Kōrero O Te ‘Ōrau (a local non-governmental organisation) is providing technical support for teachers in Avarua Primary School to incorporate field activities on climate change issues to complement classroom learning.
- Mei Te Vai Ki Te Vai (MTV KTV) – working to improve the water quality of lagoons in Rarotonga and Aitutaki. Since 2018, the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) with support from this project, has been conducting regular water quality monitoring and algae surveys for Muri Lagoon and several sites around Rarotonga. Through this, MMR has also trialled assessment methods for monitoring coral health and using Baited Remote Underwater Video Systems (BRUVS) for data collection.
- Ridge to Reef (R2R) – through MMR, biodiversity surveys were conducted on 8 islands over the period 2017 to 2019. For each survey, island specific reports/booklets were produced, designed to inform island government and leaders of the current state of the marine environment and includes fisheries management recommendations. MMR and R2R have also implemented school outreach activities and are currently investigating the genetic relationships of threatened and locally overharvested giant clams across the Southern Group islands.
- Cook Islands Sanitation Sector Reform – launched in 2015 and funded by EDF 10 to undertake feasibility studies to scope options to establish a centralised laboratory and undertake a multidisciplinary review of Muri Lagoon of key parameters impacting on the health and quality of the marine ecosystems, adverse impacts from land activities, aesthetic attributes of the area and rejuvenation of the lagoon ecosystem.

- Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) – strengthened environmental monitoring capabilities over the period 2013 to 2015 in the northern Pa Enua (outer island) group of islands, focusing on Manihiki Island.
- Pacific Regional Oceanic and Coastal Fisheries Development Programme (PROCFish) – conducted surveys in Aitutaki, Palmerston, Mangaia and Rarotonga in February and October 2007 to provide baseline information on the status of reef fisheries.

## About the GCCA+ SUPA Project

### Description of the overall GCCA+ SUPA project

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 SDGs and reduce poverty. The 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 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, 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 people-centred approach<sup>1</sup> 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*

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<sup>1</sup> SPC has adopted a people-centred approach which incorporates human rights, gender equality, social inclusion, environmental sustainability and culture. It places people at the centre of planning, implementation, decisions, monitoring and reporting.

*Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 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.*

### **The GCCA+ SUPA project in Cook Islands – Enhancing a Climate Resilient Marine Sector in the Cook Islands**

There are primarily two nearshore environmental monitoring programmes run by the MMR – water quality monitoring and marine resource assessments. The water quality monitoring is conducted on a monthly basis on the islands of Rarotonga, Aitutaki and Manihiki. The marine resources assessments have been conducted on an irregular basis and typically coincide with harvest feasibility assessments or specific projects such as the EU-funded Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project which strengthened existing environmental monitoring in Manihiki.

Between 2017 and 2019 innovation and development within the MMR included, but was not limited to, changes to the standard survey protocol to make the data relevant to a wider array of questions and therefore more applicable. Future plans for MMR include integrating project outcomes into long-term monitoring, strengthening remote monitoring sites to be more independent from Rarotonga and strengthening technical capacity. The GCCA+ SUPA project will scale up existing marine monitoring and adaptive management measures by the Cook Islands Government through improving research, monitoring and outreach capacity.

Under Key Result Area (KRA) 1 for the GCCA+ SUPA project, the technical capacity and infrastructure of the Aitutaki Marine Research Centre (AMRC) will be upgraded to support strengthened research, monitoring and education within a climate resilience context, targeting those marine systems that are most threatened by the on-going impacts of climate change (e.g. shallow coral reefs). A 5-year operational plan will be developed to articulate costed activities of the AMRC. The development of technical capacity and long-term integration of activities will be essential to the sustainability of the AMRC and its programmes beyond the life of this project. The project will employ a technical officer/national coordinator to oversee and report on activities in KRA 1. The position will be based in MMR.

Under KRA 2 the project will scale up the integration of climate resilience and traditional knowledge in the marine sector into non-formal environmental education programmes. This will include the integration of climate resilience and traditional knowledge into the Marae Moana spatial plan.

The population figures shown below have been extracted from the 2016 population census report.

<b>Island</b>	<b>Total population 2016 census</b>	<b>Direct beneficiaries</b>	<b>Indirect beneficiaries</b>
Cook Islands	17,434	7,000	6,000

The CCCI will be the focal point for the overall coordination of the project and will collaborate closely with MMR and the technical officer/national coordinator. Other partners include the

Development Coordination Division of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, and the Aitutaki Island Council.

### Rationale

Based on the foregoing, the justification and rationale for the GCCA+ SUPA project in Cook Islands is as follows:

- The sector selected by Cook Islands is one of the five sectors identified in the EU Delegation Agreement as priority sectors needing scaling up interventions for the GCCA+ SUPA project.
- The identified scaling up measure is an effective and tested measure that has elements of sustainability and can be implemented within the timeframe of the SUPA project.
- The selected scaled up measure has socio-economic benefits for the communities and can be implemented using an evidence-based people-centred approach.
- The selected scaled up measure fits within the scope of the SUPA project budget.
- Upgrading the AMRC will increase its capacity for strengthened research, monitoring and education of climate impacted marine systems and reduce the Centre's dependence on Rarotonga for personnel and resource support.
- Integrating climate awareness and traditional knowledge into environmental education programmes on selected islands will strengthen the nature-based approach to complement the scientific approaches provided by the school curriculum. (This approach has already been trialled in Rarotonga).
- Future projections for climate changes show a very high confidence in the direction of long-term change in a number of key climate variables, namely an increase in mean and extremely high air and sea surface temperatures, sea level and ocean acidification; added to which a medium confidence that the incidence of drought will decrease and medium confidence that the frequency of tropical cyclones will continue to increase the vulnerability of people living in Cook Islands.
- The Cook Islands Government, through its policies, strategies and plans, places a high priority on the sustainable management of marine resources.

## 2. PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

This section provides a timeline of the planning activities that have led to this Project Design Document. Activities are listed below in chronological order.

*March 2019:* The representative for Cook Islands attended the GCCA+ SUPA Planning and Inception Meeting, 4-6 March 2019, in Suva and contributed to the development of the draft criteria for scaling up climate change adaptation interventions under Output 3 of the project.

*October 2019:* A Concept Note for the project was submitted to the EU. Comments from the EU were discussed at the project design consultation in November 2019 in Cook Islands.

*November 2019:* The GCCA+ SUPA project team introduced the project to the Aitutaki Island Council, 5 November 2019. The Council shared its priorities for the island and also expressed its support for the project. A project design workshop was held in Rarotonga, 7-8 November

2019. There were 14 participants (F=9, M=5) from Cook Islands Government, Aitutaki Island Council, Cook Islands National Council of Women as well as Korero o te Orau, SPC and USP. The MMR provided insight into monitoring measures implemented in the marine sector between 2012 and 2019. The MMR and the Aitutaki Mayor also shared their perspectives on the AMRC. The meeting agreed to revise the key result areas for GCCA+ SUPA in Cook Islands and also outlined activities, timeframe and budget for each key result area. Following the consultation, in-country partners amended the activities and budget and submitted the revisions to SPC.

*December 2019:* A draft project design document was prepared.

*July 2020:* The project design document was signed.

### **3. DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This section describes the overall objective, specific objective and key result areas, as well as the logical framework that is used to monitor progress. The section also includes the project budget and schedule. The title of the project is “Enhancing a Climate Resilient Marine Sector in the Cook Islands.”

#### **Overall Objective**

The overall objective is: Enhance climate change adaptation and resilience in the marine sector.

#### **Specific Objective**

The specific objective is: Strengthening adaptive management of marine systems through strengthened, climate-focussed monitoring, education and awareness.

#### **Key Result Areas**

##### **KRA 1: Upgrade of Aitutaki Marine Research Centre to facilitate research, monitoring and education**

*1.1 Upgrade the facilities at the Aitutaki Marine Research Centre (AMRC): classroom, wet/dry laboratories, offices, basic amenities (accommodation, bathroom, kitchen, water)*

To facilitate strengthened research, monitoring and education for climate-impacted marine systems, and support robust information delivery and adaptive management, the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) will upgrade the existing AMRC facilities. MMR will work closely with the project manager and technical officer (refer to 1.5) to ensure that the upgrade is completed within the project timeframe.

*1.2 Purchase basic research equipment, electronics, IT and resources (e.g. SCUBA, spectrophotometer, microscopes, cameras, remote sensing equipment, data loggers) and aquaria*

Currently the AMRC is equipped with limited and out-dated equipment and resources to implement its functions. Most are in need of repair and replacement. AMRC basic equipment, electronics, IT resources and aquaria (as examples) will be procured to support the delivery of

strengthened and increased climate-driven research, monitoring, outreach programmes and adaptive management. The technical officer/national coordinator (refer to 1.5) will be responsible for overseeing the design, construction, equipment set up and training of existing staff to run the upgraded AMRC and its work programmes.

#### *1.3 Enhance the community outreach roles of the AMRC*

MMR will work with the Aitutaki Island Council to enhance the community outreach functions of the AMRC. This will include a coordinated approach to ensuring the AMRC is visitor-friendly, providing a learning environment that will enable greater access to information and skills for both understanding the marine environment, activities that impact it and how to manage it. The AMRC will facilitate community outreach activities for the Aitutaki community, including building the capacity of staff and leaders, and those from other outer islands.

#### *1.4 Develop a 5-year operational plan and incorporate it into MMR's Business Plan*

MMR will develop a 5-year operational plan for the AMRC to be incorporated into MMR's Business Plan. The operational plan will include staff, budget and equipment requirements for the AMRC. The development of technical capacity and long-term integration of activities will be essential to the sustainability of the AMRC and its programmes beyond the life of this project.

#### *1.5 Appoint technical officer/national coordinator for management, oversight, implementation and reporting of activities*

MMR will recruit and employ a technical officer/national coordinator to oversee the upgrade of the AMRC. This position will take responsibility for managing the upgrades, contractors, timelines of deliverables and regular reporting to MMR and SPC. The position will also require scientific expertise to set up laboratory spaces and strengthen and implement research, monitoring and education programmes. This position will be based with MMR.

#### *1.6 Expand marine monitoring programmes, including aquaculture, water quality, biodiversity resource surveys, Baited Remote Underwater Video Systems (BRUVS), coral health and crown-of-thorns starfish and permanent photo-stations*

Upgrading the AMRC will enable MMR to expand environmental monitoring programmes related to climate-driven impacts in marine systems. This includes aquaculture, water quality, biodiversity resource surveys, Baited Remote Underwater Video Systems (BRUVS), coral health, crown-of-thorns starfish and permanent photo-stations (as examples). The project will contribute to strengthening the sustainability of the AMRC and its research, monitoring and educational outputs.

#### *1.7 Capacity development on environmental monitoring, clam aquaculture and management in the marine sector*

MMR will facilitate training on marine environmental monitoring, clam aquaculture and management in the marine sector. This capacity development will primarily target existing staff and ensure the long term success of the programmes. Expansion and capacity development will

further be targeted towards MMR staff to be able to deliver effective outreach to the community, school students and other partners working in the marine sector.

### *1.8 Outreach, communication and awareness*

MMR will be responsible for outreach, communication and awareness of all project activities implemented under KRA 1. The objective of this outreach is to ensure the community remains engaged with the work of the AMRC as well as developing knowledge around their marine environment and its resilience to unprecedented environmental change. Outreach will target all levels of community and government in an effort to bridge the gaps around climate-driven impacts on marine systems, science, policy and adaptive management. All outreach, communication and awareness activities will promote consistent messaging and compliance with SPC and EU communication and visibility guidelines.

### *1.9 Finance and administration support activities*

Working closely with the technical officer/national coordinator, MMR project staff will provide in-kind financial and administrative support towards the implementation and delivery of all the activities under KRA 1.

## **KRA 2: Integrate climate resilience and traditional knowledge for the marine sector into environmental education programmes on selected islands**

### *2.1 Collect, compile and analyse traditional knowledge and its applications in Aitutaki and in a minimum two of the following three islands (Atiu, Mauke, Mitiaro)*

The CCCI will collect, compile and analyse traditional knowledge and its applications across the Southern Group islands. Three islands will be prioritised for this activity. This is planned to start in the second half of 2020.

### *2.2 Integrate climate resilience and traditional knowledge into extra-curricular school programmes in Aitutaki and in a minimum two of the following three islands (Atiu, Mauke, Mitiaro), train teachers and conduct school outreach activities*

The CCCI will integrate climate resilience and traditional knowledge into extra-curricular school programmes in Aitutaki and in a minimum two of the following three islands (Atiu, Mauke, Mitiaro) and conduct voluntary teacher trainings. Three islands will be prioritised for this activity. This activity will include school outreach programmes and is planned to start in 2021 and continue into 2022.

### *2.3 Integrate traditional knowledge into the Marae Moana spatial plan*

The CCCI will integrate traditional knowledge into the Marae Moana spatial plan. It is expected that this work will begin in 2021 and it should be completed by July 2022.

*2.4 Monitor and evaluate the uptake of the extra-curricular school programmes and provide additional teacher training if needed in Aitutaki and in minimum two of the following three islands (Atiu, Mauke, Mitiaro)*

The CCCI will monitor and evaluate the uptake of the extra-curricular school programmes and this is expected to take place over 2022.

*2.5 Community outreach and awareness*

Community outreach and awareness including posters, pull-up banners, booklets, reports, publications and one video. All outreach, communication and awareness activities will promote consistent messaging and compliance with SPC and EU communication and visibility guidelines.

### **Logframe**

The logframe, which represents the basis for monitoring and evaluation, is shown as Annex 1.

### **Budget and Arrangements for Financial Management**

The budget and arrangements for transfer of funds and financial management is shown as Annex 2.

### **Schedule of Activities**

Annex 3 presents the schedule of activities.

## **4. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, RISK MANAGEMENT AND EXIT STRATEGY**

### **Institutional Arrangements**

The focal point for coordination of this project in Cook Islands is the CCCI, in close collaboration with MMR and MFEM. The GCCA+ SUPA project in Cook Islands is being implemented under the ambit of the Co-Delegation Agreement, Global Climate Change Alliance Plus – Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA), CRIS number: ENV/2018/398237, which was signed by representatives from the European Union Delegation to the Pacific, SPC and SPREP on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

#### *Project Oversight Committee*

The CCCI will establish and coordinate regular (quarterly, and more often as required) national steering committee meetings to provide oversight and guidance to the GCCA+ SUPA project and provide reports to the GCCA+ SUPA team in Fiji. Meeting minutes will be taken and action items circulated as necessary. The steering committee will provide an oversight function and advise on addressing problems and issues. The Project Oversight Committee comprises: MMR, CCCI, DCD, and a Secretariat headed by the CCCI.

## *Reporting*

The CCCI and MMR will each be responsible for providing quarterly progress reports to the project team at SPC in Suva. A template for reporting will be provided.

## *Day-to-Day Implementation of the Project*

MMR will take the lead in the implementation of KRA 1. CCCI will take the lead in the implementation of KRA 2. The technical officer/national coordinator will report to the Secretary MMR and the GCCA+ SUPA Project Manager in SPC, Suva.

## **Risk Management**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Risk level</b>	<b>Mitigating Measures</b>
<b>Extreme events</b>		
Project implementation delayed by an extreme weather event e.g. cyclone, ocean surge, or major social/cultural events, as well as connectivity issues	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure planning of activities contains sufficient buffering for minimum one severe and disruptive weather event.</li> <li>• Major social and cultural events to be included in schedules during inception and planning.</li> </ul>
Global pandemic delays implementation	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilise online platforms for engagement</li> <li>• Adopt flexible planning approaches</li> <li>• Utilise local expertise where available</li> </ul>
<b>Time constraints</b>		
Insufficient time to complete activities for KRA 1 and 2, due often to logistical issues	Moderate / High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt flexible and back-up planning approaches such that alternatives can be prioritised if and when necessary.</li> </ul>
<b>National capacity and challenges to full stakeholder involvement</b>		
Country has insufficient capacity to fully implement the project activities	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain assistance from government to identify persons who will be committed to the project.</li> <li>• Ensure full commitment of government.</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainability</b>		
Project activities are not maintained or sustainable	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build in monitoring and maintenance of on-the-ground measures.</li> <li>• Promote ongoing community engagement during implementation phase including the Aitutaki Island Council</li> <li>• Involve skilled community members in the upgrade of the AMRC.</li> <li>• Capitalise on collaboration opportunities with other development partners.</li> </ul>
<b>Assumptions</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global economic conditions and national governance do not prevent economic growth.</li> <li>• Global support for the Paris Climate Change Agreement is maintained.</li> </ul>		

- Continual high-level national government commitment to prioritising climate change and disaster risk management in the national development agendas.
- Social and political stability is maintained.
- Continuous collaboration amongst development partners occurs and is documented to ensure coherence, complementarity and efficiency amongst climate change and sector-based interventions.

## **Exit Strategy**

### Strategy 1: Community Ownership

Ongoing community engagement through all phases of the project will promote ownership and contribute to the sustainability of project activities particularly in the outer islands. Recognising that community involvement creates expectations, efforts will be made throughout to ensure that the project's and the community's expectations are the same.

### Strategy 2: Further Funding

Identifying alternative sources of grant funding or loan finance, or national government funds in order to continue a project's activity is another exit strategy for the project in Cook Islands.

GCCA+ SUPA is working closely with a number of other climate change adaptation and disaster risk management projects being implemented by regional and international organisations. Throughout the course of the project, routes to create synergies with other longer running activities will be pursued and where appropriate, developed.

### Strategy 3: Private Enterprise

Within the scope of GCCA+ SUPA, private sector involvement in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation interventions will be encouraged such as through discussions with the Chamber of Commerce and in the Pa Enua with Island Councils and private sector based on those islands.

### Strategy 4: Project Closure

Winding down the project's activities as efficiently and effectively as possible to capture the benefits and any lessons learned is the fourth exit strategy. Lessons learnt from the Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) and RENI project will be applied and include allowing sufficient time and staff for an efficient and complete closure process, complete documentation of all narrative and financial materials, and perhaps most importantly the compilation and sharing of lessons learnt through interactive discussion sessions with national stakeholders and regional partners. Longer term impact assessments will also be explored under KRA 1 of the overall GCCA+ SUPA project.

## Annex 1: Indicative Logframe Matrix GCCA+ SUPA Activities in Cook Islands

The activities, the expected outputs and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action. Note also that indicators will be disaggregated by sex whenever relevant.

Intervention logic	Indicators	Baselines (2020)	Targets (2022)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
<b>KRA 1:</b> Upgrade of Aitutaki Marine Research Centre for research, monitoring and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AMRC upgraded and equipped as per design</li> <li>5-year operational plan developed for AMRC and incorporated into MMR's business plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AMRC has a semi-functional laboratory in operation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facility upgrade completed with a fully functioning laboratory in operation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final renovation report</li> <li>Project progress reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government retains interest in maintaining AMRC</li> <li>Severe cyclone does not disrupt refurbishment process</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of FOs experienced in environmental monitoring, clam aquaculture and management in the marine sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MMR Strategic Plan 2017-2021</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 operational plan for AMRC incorporated into MMR business plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project progress and final reports</li> <li>Updated MMR Business Plan 2022-2025</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expanded monitoring</li> <li>Increased outreach activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 FO experienced in listed fields</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum of 2 additional FOs trained in listed fields</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training reports</li> <li>Project progress reports</li> </ul>	

Intervention logic	Indicators	Baselines (2020)	Targets (2022)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
<b>KRA 2:</b> Integrate climate resilience and traditional knowledge into environmental education programmes on selected islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of extra-curricular school programmes on selected islands that have integrated climate resilience and traditional knowledge</li> <li>Number of teachers trained on climate resilience and traditional knowledge on selected islands</li> <li>Number of Marae Moana spatial plans that have integrated climate resilience and traditional knowledge, under the TK report</li> <li>Number of traditional practitioners and elders engaged in the collection sharing of traditional knowledge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 (Avarua primary School) in Rarotonga</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 extra-curricular school programme on each of 3 islands</li> <li>2 teachers trained on each of 3 islands</li> <li>Traditional knowledge report contributes to Marae Moana spatial plan</li> <li>20 practitioners/ elders engaged in the collection / sharing of traditional knowledge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School programme reports</li> <li>Consultancy progress reports</li> <li>Project progress reports</li> <li>Media materials</li> <li>Training reports</li> <li>Consultancy progress reports</li> <li>Project progress reports</li> <li>Final Marae Moana spatial plan with traditional knowledge report infused</li> <li>Consultancy progress reports</li> <li>Project progress reports</li> <li>Consultancy progress reports</li> <li>Project progress reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government continues to support the implementation of extra-curricular school programmes</li> <li>Marae Moana and CCCI continue to collaborate</li> </ul>

**Annex 2: Budget**

Activities	Budget (Euros)	CCCI (Euros)	MMR (Euros)	In-kind contribution (Euros)
1.1 Upgrade the facilities at the Aitutaki Marine Research Centre (AMRC)	127,000		127,000	30,000
1.2 Purchase basic research equipment, electronics, IT and resources	80,000		80,000	15,000
1.3 Enhance the tourism and community outreach roles of the AMRC	10,000		10,000	
1.4 Develop a 5-year operational plan and incorporate it into MMR's Business Plan	1,000		1,000	2,000
1.5 Appoint technical officer/national coordinator for management, oversight, implementation and reporting of activities	65,000		65,000	30,000
1.6 Expand marine monitoring programmes for climate-driven impacts on marine environments	25,000		25,000	40,000
1.7 Capacity development on environmental monitoring, clam aquaculture and management in the marine sector	20,000		20,000	20,000
1.8 Outreach, communication and awareness	10,000		10,000	15,000
1.9 Finance and administration activities	0		0	25,000
<b>Total KRA 1</b>	<b>338,000</b>	<b>338,000</b>	<b>177,000</b>	
2.1 Collect, compile and analyse traditional knowledge and its applications in Aitutaki and in a minimum two of the following three islands (Atiu, Mauke, Mitiaro)	40,000	40,000		5,000
2.2 Integrate climate resilience and traditional knowledge into extra-curricular school programmes in Aitutaki and in a minimum two of the following three islands (Atiu, Mauke, Mitiaro), train teachers and conduct school outreach activities	42,000	42,000		5,000
2.3 Integrate traditional knowledge into the Marae Moana spatial plan	10,000	10,000		5,000
2.4 Monitor and evaluate the uptake of the extra-curricular school programmes, and provide additional teacher training if needed in Aitutaki and in minimum two of the following three islands (Atiu, Mauke, Mitiaro)	20,000	20,000		5,000
2.5 Community outreach and awareness	30,000	30,000		10,000
<b>Total KRA 2</b>	<b>142,000</b>	<b>142,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	
Contingency	20,000			
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>142,000</b>	<b>338,000</b>	<b>207,000</b>

- SPC will directly procure the equipment required under KRA 1 (1.2).
- Service contracts will be utilised to fund activities under KRA 1 (1.1 and 1.3 to 1.8) and KRA 2 (2.1 to 2.5). MFEM procurement procedures will be utilised for the delivery of the service contracts.
- In the second half of 2021, SPC and Cook Islands Government will review progress and discuss release of Contingency.
- All payments will be made in Euros.
- The Cook Islands Government will oversee accurate and regular records and accounts of the implementation of the Action.
- Fixed assets (equipment): All fixed assets (equipment) will remain the property of SPC until the closure of the project. On closure of the project, the assets will officially be handed over by SPC to the respective stakeholders in Cook Islands. An asset register of all assets purchased should be maintained by the technical officer/national coordinator and kept in Ministry of Marine Resources.
- SPC Procurement Policy



SPC Procurement  
policy - 10 April 2011

### Annex 3: Schedule of activities

Activities	M7-12 2020	M1-6 2021	M7-12 2021	M1-6 2022	M7-12 2022
<b>KRA 1: Upgrade of Aitutaki Marine Research Centre for research, monitoring and education</b>					
1.1 Upgrade the facilities at the Aitutaki Marine Research Centre (AMRC): classroom, wet/dry laboratories, offices, basic amenities (accommodation, bathroom, kitchen, water)					
1.2 Purchase basic research equipment, electronics, IT and resources (e.g. SCUBA, spectrophotometer, microscopes, cameras, remote sensing equipment, data loggers) and aquaria					
1.3 Enhance the tourism and community outreach roles of the Centre					
1.4 Develop a 5-year operational plan and incorporate it into MMR's Business Plan					
1.5 Appoint technical officer and National Coordinator for management, oversight, implementation and reporting of activities					
1.6 Expand marine monitoring programmes, including aquaculture, water quality, biodiversity resource survey/s, BRUVS, coral health and crown-of-thorns starfish, permanent photo-stations					
1.7 Training on clam management, aquaculture and management of marine managed areas					
1.8 Outreach, communication and awareness					
1.9 Finance and administration activities					
<b>KRA 2: Integrate climate resilience and traditional knowledge into environmental education programmes on selected islands</b>					
2.1 Collect, compile and analyse traditional knowledge and its applications in Aitutaki and in a minimum two of the following three islands (Atiu, Mauke, Mitiaro)					
2.2 Integrate climate resilience and traditional knowledge into extra-curricular school programmes in Aitutaki and in a minimum two of the following three islands (Atiu, Mauke, Mitiaro), train teachers and conduct school outreach activities					
2.3 Integrate traditional knowledge into the Marae Moana spatial plan					
2.4 Monitor and evaluate the uptake of the extra-curricular school programmes, and provide additional teacher training if needed in Aitutaki and in minimum two of the following three islands (Atiu, Mauke, Mitiaro)					
2.5 Community outreach and awareness					