



THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS INITIATIVE



Funded by
the European Union

SCALING UP PACIFIC ADAPTATION (SUPA)

Fiji In-Country Consultation 1 November 2019

Labasa, Fiji

Consultation Report



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Background.....	4
Introduction.....	4
Consultation objectives	7
Consultation agenda	7
Participants	7
Consultation methodology	8
Consultation outcomes.....	10
Planning the next steps for GCCA+ SUPA	11
Consultation evaluation	11
Annex 1: Agenda	12
Annex 2: List of Participants	14
Annex 3: Summary of consultation evaluation	16

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, Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu.

The project design consultation took place in Labasa, Fiji on 1st November 2019. Participants at the consultation included Ministry of Waterways and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Fiji Sugar Cooperation, University of the South Pacific and other local stakeholders including the local farmers association, local advisory council, and local village representative(s) among others (see Annex 2 for List of Participants).

The consultation workshop achieved all its objectives successfully. The SPC GCCA+ SUPA team 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 the selected sites but the outputs from the project can inform planning and implementation of future projects.

An overview of the achievements of past projects to be scaled up in SUPA was provided by the Ministry of Waterways and Environment, including the proposed project activities under the three project outputs identified, that is: 1) Development of a watershed management plan (2020-2050) for Soasoa Drainage Scheme; 2) Preparation of a survey and detailed engineering design for scaling up aspects of the Soasoa levee and drainage system; 3) Implementation of the scaling up activities identified for the Soasoa Drainage Scheme. The proposed project activities under the three outputs is part of the Fiji government's Ministry of Waterways and Environment continuous infrastructural development and adaptation work to the changing climate and socio-economic landscape.

The Ministry of Waterways and Environment (then called the Public Works Department) implemented the past project activities identified to be scaled up in the SUPA project in the 1970's. It was reiterated that USP's capacity building under GCCA+ SUPA would target the sub-national level and specifically in the sector, that SPC will be working in and SPREP will develop an Impact assessment methodology for past climate change projects.

There were discussions within the group on maintenance and monitoring once projects are completed. The meeting agreed that maintenance and monitoring should be the government's contribution to projects coming in to Fiji and that government have considered steps on how to undertake this as a sustainability and exit strategy for the project.

The GCCA+ SUPA proposed activities in Fiji would align with the:

- National Adaptation Plan 2018
- National Climate Change Policy 2018 -2030
- 5-Year and 20-Year National Development Plan (2017)

The consultation developed the following project outputs:

- 1) Development of a watershed management plan (2020-2050) for Soasoa Drainage Scheme;
- 2) Preparation of a survey and detailed engineering design for scaling up aspects of the Soasoa levee and drainage system;
- 3) Implementation of the scaling up activities identified for the Soasoa Drainage Scheme and
- 4) Recruitment and employment of a National Coordinator to be based in the Climate Change and International Cooperation Division in Fiji

Based on the project outputs and scaling up activities identified, the in-country partners together with SPC will develop a first draft of the Project Design Document (PDD) and submit it to SPC and EU. Next steps for 2019/2020 were also identified.

Background



Group photo of participants with Ministry of Waterways & Environment Permanent Secretary Mr. Josua Wycliffe and Hon. Minister Dr. Mahendra Reddy (first and second from left front row respectively) and GCCA+ SUPA Project Manager Dr. Gillian Cambers (third from left front row) during the Fiji SUPA project design consultation 1st November 2019.

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.



In 2018, Fiji developed its revised National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) 2018-2030 to help build the resilience of Fiji to climate change and disasters. It employs an evidenced based approach in reducing climate risks, with the aim of addressing the specific climate vulnerabilities faced by Fiji and sets out the most comprehensive game plan to-date of how Fiji plans to deliver on its Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement. It replaces the Fiji National Climate Change Policy 2012. The NCCP 2018-2030 presents a more detailed and deliberate articulation of Fiji's priorities in reducing present and future climate risks, while maximising its long-term gains in development.

The National Climate Change Policy 2018-2030 demonstrates solidarity with global and regional efforts to manage the causes and impacts of climate change. By developing and implementing this Policy, Fiji is keeping its commitments to the UNFCCC, the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific 2017-2030, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030.

The policy will further progress efforts towards achieving the strategic vision of Fiji's 5-Year and 20-Year National Development Plan. It also establishes a clear mandate for Fiji's National Adaptation Process and Plan and the implementation of Fiji's Low Emissions Development Strategy.

By way of coordination, Fiji has established its National Climate Change Coordination Committee (NCCCC). The role of the committee, among others, is to serve as the main platform to provide guidance and policy advice to government on all matters relating to climate change. The NCCCC is comprised of the Permanent Secretaries and nominated representatives from government ministries, departments and agencies.

The NCCP 2018 – 2030 elevates the oversight required to define the long-term direction of Fiji's climate change response through the formation of a Cabinet Committee on Climate and Disaster Risk. To catalyse and formalise the engagement of the private sector in Fiji's climate change response the NCCP establishes a National Private Sector Advisory Board to increase the scope of consultation, collaboration, and inter-sector alignment between the Government and private sector. To mobilise the cross-government intentions of the NCCP, the policy calls for the establishment of climate change focal points within all line ministries. Through guidance to inform new legislation and revise institutional arrangements, the NCCP establishes greater inter-government accountability for the national response to climate change. Fiji has also established the Climate Change and International Cooperation Division (CCID) under the ambit of the Ministry of Economy. The CCID is the secretariat for the NCCCC.

Key challenges or barriers to adaptation in Fiji include:

- **Information, Knowledge and Technology barriers** – hinders understanding of the need for adaptation, the extent to which adaptation must occur, what needs to adapt, how adaptation can occur, and what are associated impacts and outcomes. Tackling adaptation knowledge deficits and communication problems will be paramount to improving resilience at all levels;
- **Governance and Institutional barriers** – Most commonly cited barrier for Fiji. It limits adaptive capacity by exacerbating drivers of vulnerability as well as impeding action, decision-making, and the flow of resources to where they are needed. Integration of environmental and climate risk into development planning processes is needed to effectively manage cross-sector mainstreaming across government and within projects. Integration of adaptation and disaster management into planning and budgetary processes is imperative.
- **Financial barriers** - directly inhibit adaptation, as financial literacy, capital, and services are vital components of adaptive capacity. All adaptation measures, including more inclusive decision making processes involve the use of financial capital. A comprehensive approach to resource mobilisation is required which: 1) seeks to increase levels of adaptation finance, 2) aligns financial flows so that they contribute towards a climate-resilient pathway, 3) supports autonomous adaptation by the private sector, households, and communities, and 4) coordinates financial inclusion efforts with other development and adaptation activities. The incorporation of risk transfer mechanisms and contingency finance into development planning processes would partially alleviate the use of scarce resources at both national and household level being devoted towards disaster recovery efforts rather than prevention and risk reduction;

- **Economic barriers** - A major barrier to adaptation is the high prevalence of low incomes, remoteness of Fiji from major economic hubs and relatively low investment that frustrates economic growth. Additionally, the national economy is predominantly comprised of climate-sensitive activities, which depend heavily on biodiversity and other natural capital. A greater focus of adaptation planning efforts on the needs of the private sector would greatly alleviate some of the issues created by economic barriers. Such support should deliver the tools and capacity required to help private sector entities identify and address climate risks in their supply chains and business portfolios, and their ability to participate in sub-national development planning processes. Enhancing relationships with private sector entities and representative bodies would be invaluable to this such as the Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council.
- **Natural and Biological Adaptation barriers and Limits** - Fiji is highly exposed to multiple environmental and climate hazards due to its geographical location and the topography of its landscape. Often prevention of hazards is beyond control as they are driven by global phenomenon such as ENSO and climate change. Biological adaptation limits exist regarding important natural resources. These include coral reefs, mangrove forest, and fresh water lenses among others, which are important sources of livelihoods that are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters. Fiji is largely unable to address natural and biological adaptation limits as these are associated with global green-house gas emissions and efforts to reduce these depend on global mitigation ambition which it cannot control. Thus it is imperative that Fiji continues to advocate for the global push to keep and reduce global temperatures to below 1.5°C and 2°C.

The in-country consultations for the GCCA+ SUPA was held at the North Pole Hotel, Labasa, Fiji on 1 November 2019.

Consultation objectives

The consultations had the following objectives:

SUPA Project design Consultation workshop 1st November, 2019

1. Introduce the SUPA project to key stakeholders in Fiji.
2. Hold a one (1) day consultation workshop with key stakeholders to develop the Project Design Document for the GCCA+ SUPA project.
3. Finalization of the activities and budget for the Project Design Document
4. Identify next steps for GCCA+ SUPA project.

Consultation agenda

The agenda is presented as Annex 1.

Participants

The participants included representatives from:

- Ministry of Waterways and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Fiji Sugar Cooperation, University of the South Pacific and other local stakeholders including the local farmers association, local advisory council, and local village representative(s) among others. A few government ministries and stakeholders that were invited were not able to attend due to various reasons.

The list of participants is presented as Annex 2.

Consultation methodology

SUPA Project design Consultation workshop 1st November, 2019

The Honourable Minister for Waterways and Environment Dr. Mahendra Reddy opened the consultation workshop. He reiterated the Fiji government's commitment to combating climate change and disaster risk challenges. Dr. Mahendra Reddy stated that "satellite data indicate sea level has risen in Fiji by about 6 mm per year since 1993. This is larger than the global average of 2.8–3.6 mm per year¹. As such, there is a need for infrastructural investment and scaling-up of current structures to accommodate rising sea levels and highly variable rainfall events". The project will invest in coastal protection measures to protect coastal communities and economically important coastal assets from climate change related threats such as rising sea level and flooding.

The workshop facilitation was led by SPC SUPA team and co-facilitated by Ministry of Waterways, Director Policy, Mr. Amit Singh and Director Operations Mr. Mahendra Gosai. The SPC GCCA+ SUPA team included Ms. Gillian Cambers, Project Manager, Mr. Sheik Irfaan, Project Finance Manager, Mr. Fakasao Tofinga, Engineer, Readiness for El Nino (RENI) Project and Mr. Sanivalati Tubuna, Project Implementation Officer. Mr. Sanivalati Tubuna welcomed the participants and distinguished guests and then gave time for introductions. The SPC SUPA team provided a brief outline of the Agenda, overview of the workshop objectives and expectations of the consultations.

The SPC GCCA+ SUPA team then introduced the project to the participants and clarification was made on the following:

- Funding – the Euro 0.5 million covers in-country consultations, staff needs, design and implementation of tangible on-the-ground scaling up measures, capacity building in the monitoring and maintenance of the scaled up measures and mainstreaming climate and disaster risk into the sector policies, plans and budgets.
- The roles and relationship between SPC, SPREP and USP – the three will work closely together as the USP component is focused on capacity building at the sub-national level within the geographical focus for the scaling up intervention and USP's capacity building has to be related to the sector selected by Fiji and SPREP conducting an Impact assessment methodology of past climate change projects which can include projects implemented by the three organizations and other partners to help inform and strengthen national strategic planning.
- The possibility of working with more than one sector – there is scope for working with more than one sector but it is important that the funds are not spread 'too thin' as we may run the risk of non-completion.

Following the presentation by the SPC GCCA+ SUPA team, the Ministry of Waterways and Environment, provided an overview of the achievements of past projects to be up scaled in the SUPA project. This included the: 1) Development of a watershed management plan (2020-2050) for Soasoa Drainage Scheme; 2) Preparation of a survey and detailed engineering design for scaling up aspects of the Soasoa levee and drainage system; 3) Implementation of the scaling up activities identified for the Soasoa Drainage Scheme and 4) Recruitment and employment of a National Coordinator to be based in the Climate Change and International Cooperation Division in Fiji

This was followed by participants discussions focused on the prioritisation and selection of project activities and identifying risks and constraints to project implementation.

The meeting participants agreed that the selection of the following outputs aligns with the national high-level decision prioritizing food, water and health security:

- 1) Development of a watershed management plan (2020-2050) for Soasoa Drainage Scheme;
- 2) Preparation of a survey and detailed engineering design for scaling up aspects of the Soasoa levee and drainage system;
- 3) Implementation of the scaling up activities identified for the Soasoa Drainage Scheme and

¹ PCCSP: Current and Future Climates of Fiji Islands

4) Recruitment and employment of a National Coordinator to be based in the Climate Change and International Cooperation Division in Fiji.

In particular the actions being proposed align with the i) Fiji National Adaptation Plan, ii) Fiji National Climate Change Policy, and iii) the Fiji 5-Year & 20-Year Development Plan.

The proposed activity supports the Government of Fiji's development goals and adaptation priorities to enhance the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities to climate change through the provision of climate-resilient infrastructures via scaling up of current infrastructure².

The SUPA project is closely linked to following interventions in Fiji's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and these are;

- a. *12.A.13 Maintain, adapt and construct sea wall and drainage infrastructure to reduce saltwater intrusion on agricultural land due to sea level rise, increased tidal surges*
- b. *Action 14.1: Scale-up efforts to strengthen coastal boundaries of urban centers and rural communities through hybrid or nature-based solutions to risk reduction purposes and to slow the need to relocate communities and infrastructure, and*
- c. *Action 15.D.7: Improve and maintain drainage networks in urban and rural areas as measures to protect against inland floods, considering that drainage defects are the dominant cause of floods.*

Moreover, the project will also contribute to the achievement of the following objectives of the 5-Year & 20-Year National Development Plan;

- d. *3.2.10: Expanding the Rural Economy through "Promoting equal opportunities, access to basic services and building resilient communities"*
- e. *3.2.11: "A sustainable sugar industry" through the provision of proper drainage services*

The meeting participants agreed that the GCCA+ SUPA activities would focus on the Soasoa drainage and catchment area. The selection of the project activities and project sites was guided by the selections criteria's developed by the SUPA project and Fiji complementary criteria's tailored to Fiji's context. The project activities and sites were selected based on the following rationale:

- The sector selected by Fiji is one of the five sectors identified in the EU Delegation Agreement as priority sectors needing scaling up interventions for the 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 measure to be scaled up fits within the scope of the SUPA project budget.
- Recognizing that maintenance of government owned infrastructure is the responsibility of the particular government agency, provisions for maintaining the newly scaled-up measure must be included in the SUPA intervention as this is essential for sustainability.

There was a discussion on maintenance and monitoring once projects are completed. It was highlighted that maintenance is the role of government and this must be stressed to line ministries when working with projects. SPC reiterated the

² 5 and 20-Year National Development Plan (NDP)

importance of involving the primary beneficiaries or target communities of the project in decision-making processes, awareness and operation and maintenance training to ensure project sustainability and success learning from past project challenges. It was also noted that monitoring after a project finishes is usually hindered due to lack of funding. The meeting agreed that maintenance and monitoring should be the government's contribution to projects coming in to Fiji.

The group identified activities for the project given the funding and time available. The activities in Fiji will address some of the adaptation strategic goals identified in the National Climate Change Policy and National Adaptation Plan:

The workshop was concluded with closing remarks from Ms. Gillian Cambers and Mr. Amit Singh who thanked the participants and the GCCA+ SUPA team.



Participants discussing in groups during SUPA project design consultation meeting 1st November 2019

Consultation outcomes

The meeting participants identified the following key activities for the project:

1. Preparation of a watershed management plan for the Soasoa Drainage Catchment
2. Preparation and delivery of a Communications Plan
3. Ground/Topographical surveys of the prioritised areas
4. Preparation of design documents for the prioritised measures
5. Environmental screening and preparation of EMP/EIA
6. Construction and installation of the floodgate
7. Construction and installation of the flapgate
8. Raising of the levee by 0.3 m along the most vulnerable areas
9. Upgrading of the spillway
10. Widening of channel

Planning the next steps for GCCA+ SUPA

Tentative timelines are given below.

- **Mid of December 2019:** Project Design Document signed
- **End of January 2020:** Grant Agreement for project activities signed
- **Early January 2020:** National Coordinator commences work
- **End of April 2020:** Funds transferred to Fiji Government on route to Ministry of Waterways and Environment
- **End of December 2020:** Topographical Survey completed
- **End of December 2020:** Conceptual Design completed
- **End of December 2020:** EIA/EMP completed

Consultation evaluation

The workshop participants completed individual evaluation forms, which, have been compiled in Annex 3. More than 88% of the participants felt that the consultation workshop meeting achieved its objectives. All 100% of participants felt engaged and that their input was given full consideration. Around 77% of participants felt the consultation met their expectations.

Annex 1: Agenda



GCCA +
THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS INITIATIVE

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SOUTH PACIFIC

SPC Global Climate Change Alliances Plus Scaling up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) Project

Scaling up the Soasoa drainage system for 2050

Project Design Consultation Workshop: Agenda

1st November 2019

Objectives:

- 1) Review of drainage, coastal protection and climate change issues faced in the Soasoa Drainage Scheme and Catchment Area.
- 2) Design specific activities, indicative budget and time frame for each output.
- 3) Identify risks and constraints to project implementation

AGENDA

Friday 1 st November 2019		Facilitators
8.45 -9.00am	Registration	SPC
9.00-9.10am	Opening of the workshop & Welcome	SPC/Participant to do prayer
9.10-9.30am	Minister's Address	Hon. Minister of Environment and Waterways Dr. Mahendra Reddy
9.30-9.35am	Participant Introductions	Participants
9.35-10.00am	Overview of the workshop objectives & Introduction to the GCCA+ SUPA Project	SPC
10.00-10.30	Review and discussion of drainage, coastal protection, climate change and maintenance issues faced in the Soasoa drainage system and catchment area. -	SPC/Amit presentation/Community Rep
10.30-10.45am	Morning Tea	
10.45-12.00 noon	Overview of the four Outputs and Funding Allocation for each. Output 1: Development of a watershed management plan (2020-2050) for Soasoa Drainage Scheme <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Determination of activities, indicative budget and schedule Output 2: Preparation of a survey and detailed engineering design for scaling up aspects of the Soasoa levee and drainage system.	SPC

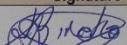
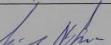
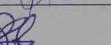
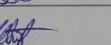
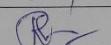
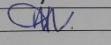
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determination of activities, indicative budget and schedule 	
12.00 noon	Working Lunch	SPC
12.00 – 1.45pm	<p>Output 3: Implementation of the scaling up activities identified for the Soasoa Drainage Scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determination of activities, indicative budget and schedule <p>Output 4: Recruitment and employment of a National Coordinator to be based in the Climate Change and International Cooperation Division in Fiji</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determination of indicative budget and arrangement for coordination between Min. of Waterways and Climate Change Division 	SPC
1.45pm	Risks to implementation of project activities	SPC
2.00 – 2.15pm	Evaluation and Closure	SPC/Min. of Waterways & Environment

Annex 2: List of Participants

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

Fiji In-country Consultation for SUPA Project Design

1 November 2019 (8:30am – 2:15pm), North Pole Hotel Conference Room, Labasa, Fiji

PARTICIPANTS LIST				
Name	Organization	Gender	Email	Signature
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Keshun	Farmer	M		
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Annex 3: Summary of consultation evaluation

Evaluation Form
FIJI PROJECT DESIGN WORKSHOP
1 November, 2019

Total responses: Male 7; Female 2; Not specified

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 i.e. selection of SUPA project activities?			1	5	3
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?				4	5
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?			2	3	4
Comments (if any):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of other essential government institutions • More consultations to relevant stakeholders, inline Ministries and Landowners on the catchment, church leaders, Ramayan Mandir Presidents, and Community Leaders on the catchment. • Continuous stakeholders meeting needed for a successful implementation of this project • Farmers and communities where the proposed output 2& 3 locations should be well aware of this projects. Reclamation works should be added in the outputs 3 activity, for farmers fields. • Need more local communities consultation's is suggested. • More consultations should be carried out before implementing. Today's consultation I have shred my problems and shared with others. • This similar kind of awareness should be done at the community level, whereby the residents of the locality and the affected farmers should be invited together with the officers from FSC and other government agencies to sit and discuss further and understand the impact of this project to the community itself. 				

