



## Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA)

Scaling up community resilience to water stress and climate related extreme events in Chuuk State, FSM



Delivering rainwater harvesting tanks in Pulusuk, Chuuk State in FSM



**Project focus:** Water sector



**Project timeframe:** 1 January 2019- 30 June 2023



**Project site:** Chuuk State, Pulap Island, Polowat Island, Pullusuk Island, Tamatam Island



**National implementing agencies:** Environment Protection Agency Chuuk, Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management



**Beneficiaries:** 3029 persons

### Project synopsis

The 'Scaling up community resilience to water stress and climate-related extreme events in Chuuk State, FSM' project has scaled up water security measures in the outer islands of Chuuk State, specifically in Polowat, Pulusuk and Pulap atolls. Rainwater harvesting systems have been installed in a total of six community buildings (schools and churches) across the three islands. A total of 26 10,200Litre rainwater tanks were installed on the islands and installation and maintenance training was provided to selected community members. Water quality testing and monitoring were conducted for community and household water sources and awareness on water quality carried out with community groups.

### How did this project address climate change adaptation in FSM

- People living in the outer islands of Chuuk State are largely dependent on the harvesting of rainwater for drinking water. Underground water lenses in the low-lying atoll islands are shallow and vulnerable to saltwater intrusion, especially during droughts.
- The effects of climate change on temperature, rainfall, weather extremes, sea level, and the frequency and magnitude of typhoons is exacerbating the difficulties experienced by outer island residents to source and supply drinking water.
- Focusing on the people living in the remote islands of Polowat, Pulusuk, Pulap and Tamatam, the project adopted a participatory and inclusive approach that addresses the vulnerabilities and the rights of all residents in the planning, selection of project sites, and installation of the rainwater harvesting systems. Skills in climate resilience were enhanced for community members, island council representatives and community leaders.

### How did this project scale up climate change adaptation in FSM?

- Scaling up previous measures that had elements of sustainability: The project analysed the impact of past water security projects, and the lessons learnt from the installation of water security measures in the outer islands of FSM over the past ten years, to design the activities for Polowat, Pulusuk and Pulap particularly in times of low rainfall or drought.
- Link to national priorities: The project was linked to the National Strategic Development Plan (2004 – 2023) and the Framework for National Water and Sanitation Policy (2011).
- Socio-economic benefits for communities and the most vulnerable groups: This is evidenced by increased access to potable water and improved sanitation and hygiene for outer island communities, implemented through a people centred approach involving all vulnerable groups.
- Maintenance of the newly scaled up infrastructure: Training, tools and spare parts have been provided to the communities to maintain the systems and community members assisted with the installations.





Women engaging in discussions during consultations on the island of Polowat



Completed tank installation at the school site on the island of Pullap

### Key Project Highlights

#### Increasing access to quality water

- Delivery of assessments and surveys on existing water storage systems at the community and household levels.
- Engaging the four island communities on the upgrading of existing rainwater harvesting systems and installation of new ones at identified buildings in Polowat, Pulusuk, Pulap and Tamatam islands.
- Installing 29 x 10,200 Litre water tanks at six locations across the four islands

#### Providing training in the monitoring of water quality and maintenance of measures

- Provision of basic water quality testing and monitoring to community members.
- Promoting water hygiene through WASH Programme campaigns to schools in Polowat, Pulusuk, Pulap and Tamatam.
- Supporting national clean-up campaigns in Pohnpei.
- Upskilling a total of 80 community members in rainwater system maintenance and installation.

#### Strengthening partnerships and community engagement

- Establishing partnerships with the Environmental Protection Agency Chuuk agency to include Tamatam Island in project scope.
- Signing of three Memorandum of Agreements with leaders of Polowat, Pulusuk and Pulap that confirmed installation sites and the management responsibilities of the communities for the water measures
- Applying a people-centred approach in community consultations in the design, implementation and monitoring of the rainwater measures that addresses participatory, vulnerabilities and rights of the community members.

#### Monitoring and learning

- Assessing the impacts of past climate change adaptation projects and applying the results to national strategic planning. Nukuoro island of Pohnpei selected as case study for the development and application of the impact assessment methodology.
- Installation of a manual rain gauge in Polowat and provision of training to local personnels on the collection and management of the rainfall data. This is important information for drought and disaster preparedness.
- Adoption of the water measures installation designs used for the GCCA+SUPA project for Chuuk outer island rainwater installations

#### Activities meet the following SDGs:



#### About the GCCA+ SUPA project

The Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Scaling up Pacific Adaptation (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- June 2023) is funded with €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 **Overall Objective** of the GCCA+ SUPA project 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.