CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN PALAU

GCCA+
THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS INITIATIVE

Funded by the European Union

Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA)

Enhancing community health and resilience to climate change and disasters in Palau

Newly equipped radio station with capacity to broadcast the national Eco Paradise FM throughout Palau

Project focus: Health sector

Project timeframe: 1 January 2019- 30 June 2023

Project site: States in Babeldaob; all states of Palau

National implementing agencies: Ministry of Health, Ministry ofState (including the Media and Information Services), Ministry of Finance (including the Climate Change Office), Ministry of Education and Bureau of Public Works

Beneficiaries
Direct benefit: **3,606 persons**
Indirect benefit: **14,055 persons**

Project synopsis

The 'Enhancing community health and resilience to climate change and disasters in Palau" focused on enhancing and expanding previous environmental health, environmental education and water security actions. The capacity and range of the government radio station, Eco Paradise FM, was expanded to provide climate resilience information to all states of Palau.

How did this project address climate change adaptation in Palau?

- Palau like many island countries is experiencing the acute impacts of climate change. These include rising temperatures, varying rainfall patterns and changes in the frequency of droughts. These impacts exacerbate the vulnerability of local communities to water and vector-borne diseases and reduce food and water food security. The Palau National Climate Change Policy 2015 and the Palau Bureau of Public Health Strategic Plan identified health and water security as areas requiring priority action.
- Focusing on the people and communities in the five states of Aimeliik, Airai, Ngardmau, Ngaremlengui, Ngatpang on the island of Babeldaob, the project has adopted a people centred approach that addressed the vulnerabilities and the rights of all residents, whilst paying special attention to the most vulnerable.
- The project scaled up an existing school supplementary water storage programme to include community emergency evacuation shelters in the five states. Water quality training and household monitoring was established to help control the spread of vectors.
- The capacity of the national radio station, Eco paradise FM, has been enhanced to provide live broadcasts relating to climate resilience and disasters from communities throughout the country.
- An existing school programme to monitor coastal pollution has been expanded and integrated into the school curriculum.

How did this project scale up climate change adaptation in Palau?

- **Scaling up previous measures that had elements of sustainability:** Scaling up was achieved by supporting and expanding the involvement of the National Climate Change Coordination Committee (NC4) in the design of the GCCA+ SUPA project activities in Palau and expanding existing actions relating to community water storage, environmental health and coastal pollution.
- **Link to national priorities:** The project was linked to the 2020 National Master Development Plan 1996; Palau's National Disaster and Risk Management Framework (NDRMF) 2010 - amended in 2016, and the Climate Change Policy 2015.
- **Socio-economic benefits for communities and the most vulnerable groups:** The project applied a people centred approach in all the activities.

Pacific Community Communauté du Pacifique
SPREP Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
USP THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

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High school students in Palau monitoring microplastics.

Community training in water quality monitoring

Key Project Highlights

Strengthening resilience to water and vector borne diseases

- Installing supplementary rainwater storage systems at selected emergency shelters across five states in Babeldaob.
- Providing equipment for the Ministry of Health to enhance vector-borne disease surveillance and outbreak responses.
- Establishing a water quality and vector-borne disease training programme for community members and State agencies in five states in Babeldaob.
- Working with householders to and identify and remove breeding grounds for mosquitoes and rodents.

Building community resilience

- Assessing state development plans to identify entry points for climate and disaster resilience.
- Equipping the National Radio Station with a package of radio equipment comprising broadcast transmitters and antennae, audio and public address systems, television and projector, IT equipment and a media van to conduct live broadcast programmes highlighting local efforts to build community resilience to climate change and healthy environments.
- Focusing on youth and providing training and equipment to Grade 7 and Grade 9 students and teachers to monitor ocean and coastal plastic pollution, their impacts on climate change and human health, and to integrate the monitoring programme into the school curriculum.

Strategic planning

- Conducting an impact analysis of past climate change adaptation projects focusing on food security and water security and applying the results to national strategic planning.
- Expanding the impact analysis methodology to climate change mitigation, especially renewable energy.
- Developing the first ever 5-year national radio communications plan for Palau, which encapsulates climate change awareness and adaptive concepts. This plan has been used to help leverage additional support for the National Radio Station from other development partners.
- Supporting the Office of Climate Change to strengthen the functions of the National Climate Change Coordination Committee.

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.