

Palau: Summary of activities for outputs 1 and 3

Output 1: Impact analysis to strengthen national strategic planning

Output 3: Scale up resilient development measures in specific sectors



High School students in Palau conducting a microplastics survey

Palau timeline January 2019 – June 2023

Output 1: Impact analysis to strengthen national strategic planning	
March 2021	National consultant commences
August 2022	Testing of the full methodology on water security and agricultural measures in Angaur and Babeldaob completed and Impact Snapshot published .
November 2023	A team from Palau participated in the Applied Training in iA and the impacts database held in Fiji
March 2023	iA methodology shared with Palau Energy and Water Administration
June 2023	A team from Palau participated in the Sub-regional applied training for the light version of the iA methodology held in Samoa
Output 3: Scale up resilient development measures in specific sectors	
Planning and KRA 3: Coordination and reporting	
March 2019	Presentation of GCCA+ SUPA project at an Inception Meeting in Fiji attended by a representative from Palau
May 2019	1st Consultation with the National Climate Change Coordination Committee (NC4)
June 2019	Project sector selected – health, and concept note approved
August 2019	2nd consultation with NC4 to prepare the PDD
May 2020	PDD signed
September 2020	PDD amendment 1 signed
October 2020	National coordinator and finance officer commence
June 2021	PDD amendment 2 signed
July 2021	M&E workshop for all implementing partners in Palau
March 2022	5th and final GCCA+ SUPA steering committee and lessons learnt meeting held in Palau
KRA 1: Reduce vulnerability to water and vector borne diseases in Aimeliik, Airai, Ngardmau, Ngaremlengui, Ngatpang States	
November 2020	Vehicle for environmental health monitoring delivered to Ministry of Health
May 2021	Environmental health monitoring equipment delivered
December 2022	Environmental health monitoring programme delivered in 5 states including town hall meetings, training in the prevention of vector-borne diseases and water quality testing, and household vector surveillance.
August 2021	MoU between the 5 state governors and national government agencies for the enhancement of WASH facilities at emergency shelters
June 2023	Rainwater harvesting systems installed at emergency shelters in the 5 states
KRA 2: Strengthen climate resilience through communication, education and outreach in Palau	
April 2020	Request received from Government of Palau for the purchase of radio equipment to be fast tracked to help Palau address the global COVID-19 pandemic and provide the public with daily, accurate preparedness information about the pandemic
August 2020	Radio broadcasting equipment and vehicle for the delivery of live broadcasts delivered
September 2022	National communication plan for the Ministry of State formally adopted
December 2022	Radio station (Eco Paradise FM) fully operational providing live coverage of the President's weekly addresses, warnings of extreme events, climate

	change resilience programmes and other news items.
December 2022	Training and equipment provided to 75% of Grade 7 and 9 teachers in the monitoring of ocean and coastal pollution and its impact on climate change and human health; monitoring programme integrated into the school science curriculum

Palau highlights

The Republic of Palau is located in the northwest Pacific Ocean, 800 km east of the Philippines. There are over 500 islands in Palau most of which are the small, uninhabited Rock Islands. Only nine islands are currently inhabited, and the country is divided into 16 states. The total land area is 535 km². The population of Palau is 17,661 (2015 census) and around 65% (11,444 persons) live in Koror, with a further 14% (2,455 persons) living in the adjacent state of Airai.

The project used a consultative and people centred approach to (i) conduct an iA on past water security and agricultural measures in Koror and Babeldaob; and (ii) address environmental health in Aimeliik, Airai, Ngardmau, Ngaremlengui, Ngatpang States supported by education, communication and outreach in all states of Palau.

Highlights output 1

Palau was one of the four countries to trial the extended version of the impact analysis methodology. This was carried out by a Palauan NGO and consultants. The two past projects selected for analysis covered food production in Babeldaob that was supported by the GIZ ACSE project, and water security in Angaur that was supported by the GCCA: PSIS project.

The following are the output 1 highlights in Palau.

- The main implementing partner for the iA was the Palau Conservation Society.
- The trial of the extended version of the impact analysis methodology was conducted over a 15-month period starting in January 2021 and included research into past projects, data collection and field trials of the methodology.
- The final snapshot impact analysis report was published in September 2022 and showed each project received a scoring of “high (positive) impact”, 2.9 out of a total of 4 for food production in Babeldaob and 2.5 out of a total of 4 for water security in Angaur.
- Palau featured in three of the Practice Learning Sessions conducted between June and August 2022 and shared the context and results of their activities in outputs 1 and 3.
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- Palau participated in the Regional applied training in impact analysis methodology and impacts database in Fiji in November 2022.
- A workshop was conducted in March 2023 with the Palau Energy & Water Administration to discuss a climate change mitigation impact assessment methodology focusing on renewable energy.
- Palau participated in the Sub Regional Applied training for the light version of the iA methodology in Samoa in June 2023.

Highlights output 3

The government of Palau selected the health sector as their focus for Output 3. The overall objective of the project was to promote and scale up climate resilience practices in Palau. The specific

objective was to improve access to safe water in selected states and the sharing of information nationwide. The project had three key result areas: (1) Vulnerability to water and vector-borne diseases in selected states reduced; (2) Climate resilience through communication, education and outreach in Palau strengthened; and (3) Project coordination activities.

The following are the output 3 highlights in Palau:

- The GCCA+SUPA project was presented to the countries at an Inception Meeting in Fiji in March 2019. Following this and after two in-country consultations, Palau selected environmental health in Aimeliik, Airai, Ngardmau, Ngaremlengui, Ngatpang States as the focus sector, supported by education, communication and outreach in all states of Palau. This arrangement was seen as a way of strengthening the National Climate Change Coordination Committee (NC4), which has the mandate to implement the 2015 Climate Change Policy and Action Plan.
- The main implementing partner was the Office of Climate Change in the Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of State, Ministry of Education and the Environmental Quality Protection Board.
- The GCCA+ SUPA project provided a vehicle, equipment and test kits to the Division of Environmental Health. They in turn conducted town hall meetings, provided training for the public on water quality, and conducted household vector assessments. These activities when combined enhanced the vector surveillance programme such that it now covers 80% of Koror State and the states in Babeldaob.
- Rainwater harvesting systems were installed at the emergency shelters in Aimeliik, Airai, Ngardmau, Ngaremlengui, Ngatpang and an MoU was signed with the State Governors to cover maintenance after the project ends.
- The Ministry of State Radio Station (Eco Paradise FM) is now fully operational with the support of the radio equipment and vehicle provided by the GCCA+ SUPA project. A schedule involving nine different agencies has been established for live broadcasts covering climate change, disaster risk, weather, presidential briefings, culture and education notices.
- The fast-tracking of the procurement of the equipment required for the Radio Station helped Palau address the global COVID-19 pandemic and provide the public with daily, accurate preparedness information about the pandemic.
- The first-ever Communications Plan for the radio station has been prepared, and this together with the equipment provided by the project has been instrumental in leveraging additional funding, e.g. the new AM tower funded by the United Nations Development Programme now allows broadcasts to reach all states of Palau and countries beyond.
- The Ministry of Education's school programme for Grades 7 and 9 students to monitor coastal pollution, and specifically micro, meso and macro plastics, has been expanded and strengthened such that it is now integrated into the school science curriculum.
- A people centred approach was adopted in all the project activities, e.g. individual household assessments conducted with the individual householder were among the vector surveillance activities, the Eco-Paradise radio station has reached the most isolated communities, and youth are the focus of the coastal pollution monitoring.
- A 3-day monitoring and evaluation workshop, held midway through the implementation period, and designed to strengthen the capacity of Palau's implementing team helped the project team deliver all the outputs in a timely and effective manner.

Palau details: output 3

The PDD was signed in May 2020 following a consultative phase.

Assessment, consultation and design of measures

- Two consultations were conducted, the first in May 2019 and the second in August 2019. The consultations involved members of NC4 which has the mandate to implement the 2015 Climate Change Policy and Action Plan. All the agencies presented proposals for the GCCA+ SUPA project and a final selection was made.
- At the request of the Ministry of State the procurement of the equipment for the radio station was fast tracked in 2020 using SPC's Crisis Response Procurement Procedure.
- The design and implementation of the other items in the KRAs was completed in 2021 – 2022.

KRA 1: Reduce vulnerability to water and vector-borne diseases in Aimeliik, Airai, Ngardmau, Ngaremlengui, Ngatpang States

There were two main activities under this KRA.

Installation of rainwater harvesting systems in community evacuation shelters Aimeliik, Airai, Ngardmau, Ngaremlengui, and Ngatpang State

- One fully fenced rainwater harvesting system comprising 1 x 5,200L plastic tank and all appurtenances was installed at the emergency shelters in Aimeliik, Airai and Ngaremlengui States; similar systems comprising 2 x 5,200L plastic tanks were installed in Ngardmau.
- A request was made by the Ngatpang Governor in 2023 to change the site for the water system to the new state building and this request was accommodated.
- An MoU was signed with the State Governors confirming maintenance arrangements after the project ends.

Vector-borne disease prevention training and townhall meetings

- The Division of Environmental Health (DEH) in Palau, with the support of the GCCA+ SUPA project, adopted a people centred approach to addressing some environmental health issues, particularly those being negatively impacted by climate change.
- Teams from DEH visited households in the five states to identify and help families remove breeding grounds for mosquitos and rodents such as old tyres and liquid waste outfalls. This approach also provided a comfortable and flexible space for families to voice their needs and challenges.
- This approach strengthened the DEH's use of the M-RIP model (Massive – Repetitive, Intensive & Persistence), a cost-effective tool that requires consistency and promotes behavioural change to maintain the cleanliness of the surrounding areas of homes and community areas.
- Training in the monitoring of water quality and vector borne diseases was provided to members of the public and state employees in the five states.
- Outreach activities included town hall meetings in the five states and presentations of environmental health issues and climate resilience in all the 16 states of Palau during the September emergency preparedness month schedule.

- The project provided a vehicle, mosquito surveillance equipment and test kits for the outreach programme.
- The activities strengthened the partnership between the DEH and the Palau Automated Land and Resource Information System (PALARIS) to share data and household mapping for the Palau Vector Surveillance programme and avoid duplication of effort.
- A video on “Sharing the same mindset – keeping the environment clean” was prepared.

KRA 2: Strengthen climate resilience through communication, education, and outreach in Palau

There were 2 main activities under this KRA.

Fully equip the Ministry of State’s radio station for onsite and live radio broadcasting to build awareness about climate change resilience and prepare a national radio communication plan

- The GCCA+ SUPA project provided the Bureau’s Division of Media and Information Services with a package of radio equipment comprising broadcast transmitters and antennae, audio and public address systems, television and projector, IT equipment.
- The project has also provided a fully operational media van to remotely air live news and community events from Babeldaob and Koror through the wireless and television system.
- The Ministry of State with the support of the GCCA+ SUPA project developed its first every 5-year National Communications Plan that provides their vision for “An empowered and knowledgeable public sector and informed citizenry, who are actively- engaged in public decision making at the state and national levels”. The 5-year plan encapsulates climate change awareness and adaptive resilience concepts.
- A pre and post listener survey was conducted showing the radio programmes reached 12-15,000 national and worldwide listeners as compared to the no listeners’ baseline before the start of the SUPA project.
- The project has scaled up the delivery of interactive community broadcasting programmes that provides timely information that enhances community climate and disaster resilience.

Upscaling an existing coastal and ocean pollution monitoring programme for teachers and students

- Under the GCCA+ SUPA project, the Ministry of Education was able to expand its ocean stewardship and coastal pollution monitoring training project to include more schools, reaching at least 75% of grade 7 and grade 9 teachers and students throughout Palau. The project provided training to grade 7 and grade 9 teachers and students in the monitoring of ocean and coastal pollution and its impact on climate change and human health, as well as equipment including drones.
- The grade 7 students also collected trash at designated sites, segregated and weighed the trash. The results showed that most of the trash is composed of plastics (36%). After the activity, the trash was either brought to the recycling centre or disposed of properly.
- The grade 9 monitoring activity, focused on microplastics on the beaches of Palau, as part of a global citizen science effort called the Big Microplastic Survey. Sixteen surveys were conducted and the most common microplastic types were secondary microplastics and EPS (expanded polystyrene, commonly known as styrofoam).
- Lesson plans have been prepared and the activity has been incorporated into the science curriculum. Multiple teachers have been trained in each school to address teacher turnover and other organizational changes.
- A video on “Palau students address plastic pollution in the marine environment” was prepared.

KRA 3: Coordination and reporting

- A National Coordinator and Finance Officer commenced in October 2020 based in the Office of Climate Change, Bureau of Budget and Planning.
- A 3-day monitoring and evaluation (M&E) workshop was conducted in July 2021 designed to strengthen the implementation capacity of the implementing agencies. The workshop, designed to cover planning, data collection, making data usable and using data for decision-making, was attended by 19 participants. Participants developed M&E plans covering the delivery of the GCCA+ SUPA activities for the duration of the project.

Challenges

- Due to travel restrictions brought about by COVID-19, the consultations between the project team at SPC Fiji and government partners in Palau during the project implementation period were convened entirely through virtual meetings. This arrangement was hampered by poor internet connections and different time zones.

Lessons learnt

- The multi sector agency approach adopted by Palau strengthened the existing National Climate Change Coordination Committee and the implementation of the national climate change policy and action plan. The approach also allowed for leveraging off other project activities.
- The scaling up of the radio station and the preparation of the Ministry of State's Communications Plan were instrumental in securing funding support from the United Nations Development Programme for the AM tower.
- The people centred approach utilised throughout the project, and especially the household assessments conducted as part of the vector-borne disease prevention programme, provided a comfortable and flexible space for householders to voice their needs and receive advice on environmental health mitigation measures.
- Sustainability of education and awareness activities was achieved through the 'train the trainers' approach and the integration into the school curriculum of the coastal pollution monitoring.