

Building Pacific Resilience to Climate Change Across 15 Countries

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Brussels, 02 April 2019/ACP: This week signals the start of a EUR 12 million project designed to build the resilience of 15 Pacific countries to threats posed by climate change, which Pacific Island Forum leaders have repeatedly identified as the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and well-being of the peoples of the Pacific.

The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) project is financed through the Intra-African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) Programme which is an initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, funded by the 11th EDF. The Intra-ACP GCCA+ PACRES will be delivered collaboratively by the agencies of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) – the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Pacific Community, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the University of the South Pacific (USP), in close consultation with SPREP Member countries and Timor-Leste.

A three-day Intra-ACP GCCA+ PACRES Inception and Planning Meeting, which started on 1 April 2019, is being held at the SPREP campus in Apia, Samoa.

"The European Union remains committed and will continue to support climate change adaptation in the Pacific and to coordinate and partner with the CROP agencies to deliver concrete results in line with the strategies elaborated by the Pacific governments" said the EU Programme Manager for the Intra-ACP GCCA+ PACRES Project, Ms Jenny Brown.

Assistant Secretary General of the ACP Group of States, Mr. Viwanou Gnassounou stated that the Intra-ACP GCCA+ PACRES aimed to, "Strengthen support for partner countries in climate negotiations and in implementing the Paris Agreement, enhance national and regional climate change strategies and scale up climate change adaptation pilots in five countries, with a focus on ecosystem-based solutions."

Additionally, the Intra-ACP GCCA+ PACRES will also improve information sharing and develop national capacity to address climate change and build disaster resilience through enhanced training, studies and research opportunities. It is also expected to benefit other regions as it will seek to strengthen networks and share knowledge with other ACP regions and engage the private sector to address climate change and build disaster resilience.

"The Intra-ACP GCCA+ PACRES is a prime example of durable and genuine partnerships at work to help our Pacific islands address the single greatest threat to our survival – climate change," said Ms Tagaloa Cooper-Halo, Director, Climate Change Resilience, at SPREP.

"The magnitude of this threat is such that no one can address it alone. By working together, Pacific CROP agencies and our country partners can take action collectively to build resilience. We know that over the next four years the Intra-ACP GCCA+ PACRES will produce great benefits and results for Pacific people and communities."

The Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu are the country partners for the project.

For further information please contact the Intra-ACP GCCA+ PACRES Project Manager at SPREP Dr Martin Sharp at martins@sprep.org ^[1].

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