Regional: Strengthening Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle of the Pacific (Phase 2)

Project Name: Strengthening Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle of the Pacific (Phase 2)

Project Number: 43427-012

Country: Regional, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu

Project Status: Closed

Project Type / Modality of Assistance: Technical Assistance

Source of Funding / Amount:
- Technical Assistance Special Fund: US$ 1.15 million
- Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund: US$ 800,000.00
- Global Environment Facility: US$ 13.10 million
- TA 7753-REG: Strengthening Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle of the Pacific (Phase 2) (Supplementary): US$ 18,183.00

Strategic Agendas:
- Environmentally sustainable growth
- Inclusive economic growth
- Regional integration

Drivers of Change:
- Governance and capacity development
- Knowledge solutions
- Partnerships
- Private sector development

Sector / Subsector: Agriculture, natural resources and rural development - Water-based natural resources management

Gender Equity and Mainstreaming: No gender elements

Description:
The TA is Phase 2 of ADB's program to strengthen the management of coastal and marine resources in the coral triangle region, assisting Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste in fulfilling their Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) objectives, and engaging Fiji and Vanuatu in addressing issues on coral reefs, fisheries and food security that continuously threaten coastal communities. While Fiji and Vanuatu are not currently members of the CTI, they are geographically adjacent to the coral triangle region and share common coastal and marine ecosystems and species (mangrove forests, seagrass beds, and coral reefs), and experience similar environmental threats. The TA will help ensure food security for the populations in these five Pacific countries resulting from the increased resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy:
Addressing food security issues amidst increased threats arising from overfishing, increased run-off and sedimentation and climate change impacts requires effective management of coastal and marine resources, especially those associated with coral ecosystems. The TA will support the introduction of more effective management measures and tools to build the resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems. It will support the coral triangle Pacific countries as well as Fiji and Vanuatu in the conservation and management of coral reefs and associated habitats for food security and poverty reduction. The TA responds to ADB's Pacific Region Environmental Strategy at the local level by (i) providing support in mainstreaming environment issues within the wider government policy and strategy framework, (ii) supporting the provision of environmental services through urban and rural land use planning linked to water quality and water quantity management needs, and (iii) promoting a focus to achieve integrated coastal resources management (ICRM) through community-based programs that are linked within a wider ecosystem management framework and to building diversified livelihoods, including coastal tourism. The TA complements ADB's Pacific Approach 2010-2014 that addresses broad, strategic concerns on sustainable development through knowledge solutions, including better practice models for environmental management. At the national level, the project was designed to support the goals and priorities of the CTI National Plans of Action (NPOAs) of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste, as well as other existing national policies, regulations and plans. In Fiji and Vanuatu, the TA was designed to support implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans as well as other sustainable development policies, and regulations. The TA links closely to ADB's other CTI technical assistance programs such as (a) Strengthening Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle of the Pacific (Phase 1); (b) Regional Cooperation in Knowledge Management, Policy and Institutional Support to the Coral Triangle Initiative; and (c) Strengthening Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the CTI-countries.

Impact:
Coastal and marine resources ensure sustainable food security for the population in the five Pacific countries.

Project Outcome:
Increased resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems is attained in the five Pacific countries

Progress Toward Outcome:
Capability building activities for effective ICRM for food security and increased resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems are ongoing in Timor Leste and Solomon Islands. Acquired knowledge and skills are applied in the development of ICRM plans, local fisheries management plans, MPA establishment, and implementation of subprojects. Information, education, and communication (IEC)-related activities are ongoing to complement the capability-building activities for uptake of knowledge by the communities and sustain the gains from subproject activities.

Implementation Progress:
All five countries were consulted during the design phase of the project.

**Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation**

- **Output 1:** Capabilities of national and local institutions strengthened in sustainable coastal and marine resources management.
  - Conducted regional and in-country training programs and workshops on: (i) ICRM, EBFM, marine protected areas (MPAs) management, and climate change adaptation; (ii) data collection and analysis; (iii) environmental and resource management law, including those related to ICRM and EBFM.
  - Documented lessons learned and country case studies through IUCN’s Lessons Learning Framework for the environmental law component.
  - Strengthened environmental law associations as platforms in pursuing the countries’ environmental law and policy development, such as the development of protected areas policy and legislation in Papua New Guinea, development of ICRM in Fiji and environmental policy for Vanuatu.
  - Enables the development and passage of the new Malaita Province Fisheries Ordinance (Bill) in Solomon Islands and ministerial diplomas for the MPA sites in Atauro and Batugade in Timor-Leste that define their boundaries, set up an aquatic reserve, and regulate their management.

- **Output 2:** Coastal communities experienced in applying best practices in ecosystem-based management and climate change adaptation
  - Implemented subprojects in the priority sites through subcontracted NGOs on community-based resource management; sustainable financing, mangrove rehabilitation; women’s active involvement in locally managed marine areas; ridge-to-reef approach to resource management; community-based management of crown-of-thorns starfish; and communication, education, and information awareness on MPAs; and other ICRM planning-related activities.
  - Developed the marine conservation plans for Malaita and Isabel provinces in Solomon Islands, and drafted the MPA management plan in Atauro and Batugade in Timor-Leste.

- **Output 3:** Resilience of coastal ecosystems to climate change enhanced.
  - Produced 13 regional and subregional resource maps showing estimates of reef areas vulnerable to coral bleaching, coastline length vulnerable to ocean acidification, and land area vulnerable to submersion at 1-meter sea level rise, area of key marine habitats, and area of marine habitats under protection.
  - Prepared community resource participatory maps for 10 wards in Malaita province, Solomon Islands which are now being used by the provincial government in preparing ward plans.
  - Completed studies on (i) Responding to Climate Change using an Adaptation Pathways and Decision-making Approach by WorldFish that recommended ways to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders to assess climate change risks to coastal livelihoods and develop cost-effective planned responses to reduce these risks; (ii) Climate Change Adaptation and Coastal Resources Management in Fiji and Vanuatu; (iii) Climate Change Adaptation and Coastal Resources Management in Fiji and Vanuatu; (iv) Climate Change Adaptation and Coastal Resources Management in Fiji and Vanuatu; (v) Climate Change Adaptation and Coastal Resources Management in Fiji and Vanuatu; (vi) Climate Change Adaptation and Coastal Resources Management in Fiji and Vanuatu.

- **Output 4:** Effective project management established by ADB and the participating governments.
  - Engaged the FCG ANZDEC from 25 October 2013 to 30 October 2015, as the PMC that carried out the basic staffing for the RPM and the NPMUs, and provided in-country program management and implementation, including (i) mobilization of national and international specialists/consultants; (ii) detailed work planning; (iii) coordination of demonstration activities; (iv) procurement of goods and services, including subcontracting of service providers to implement subprojects and training activities; (v) financial management; and (vi) documentation and reporting.
  - Completed the mid-term review in 2015.
  - Set up the TCU within PARD to support TA implementation.
  - Developed a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework with monitoring and reporting tools to guide country activities, and trained the NPMUs staff on its use and application. The PMC submitted 11 quarterly progress reports as well as periodic updates on a subproject basis to track the progress of project-supported activities. A monitoring and evaluation specialist was mobilized to conduct a more focused analysis and processing of collected data in the context of the overall objective of the project.
  - Set up an online file-sharing account administered by the PMC to access subproject information and documents, and served as the repository of all reports and presentation materials. Access was granted to all project partners and consultants interested to share or download project-related information.
  - Provided support to strengthen the role of the CTI National Coordinating Committees (NCCs) of PNG, SOM, and TIM, and generated a set of 12 general conclusions concerning the implications for food security in these countries.
  - Climate change adaptation measures integrated into (i) draft management plans for Atauro and Batugade in Timor-Leste; and (ii) Vanuasi River estuary and coastal area ecosystem management plan in Vanuatu.
  - Climate change adaptation measures, public awareness, and knowledge product development currently embedded in the 5 ongoing subprojects.

- **Output 5:** Improvement of the resilience of coastal ecosystems to contribute towards food security.
  - Enabled the development and passage of the new Malaita Province Fisheries Ordinance (Bill) in Solomon Islands and ministerial diplomas for the MPA sites in Atauro and Batugade in Timor-Leste that define their boundaries, set up an aquatic reserve, and regulate their management.
  - Implemented the subprojects in the priority sites through subcontracted NGOs on community-based resource management; sustainable financing, mangrove rehabilitation; women’s active involvement in locally managed marine areas; ridge-to-reef approach to resource management; community-based management of crown-of-thorns starfish; and communication, education, and information awareness on MPAs; and other ICRM planning-related activities.
  - Developed the marine conservation plans for Malaita and Isabel provinces in Solomon Islands, and drafted the MPA management plan in Atauro and Batugade in Timor-Leste.

**Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects**

**Environmental Aspects**

**Involuntary Resettlement**

**Indigenous Peoples**

**Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation**

**During Project Design**

All five countries were consulted during TA design phase.
Annual implementation review workshops attended by focal government offices, implementing partners and the PMC were conducted in September 2012 and April 2013 at ADB headquarters to discuss TA progress and issues/concerns requiring attention/solutions. Regional consultation workshops were conducted on 26 to 29 April 2015 (Brisbane) and 13 to 15 October (Sydney). The regional planning meeting in Brisbane generated a list of pipeline projects consisting of 12 in-country and 2 regional subprojects and training activities for implementation under the TA. The final workshop in Sydney reflected on outcomes and lessons from the subprojects from the perspectives of the field consultants, government, community, and experienced practitioners and reviewers of ecosystem based management initiatives. Shared during these fora were perceptions of best practices, implementation barriers, recommendations for finalising the project and preparing for follow-up implementation, including on data and information needs for effective project evaluation and reporting.

Close coordination and consultation have been done with the CTI NCCs of PNG, SOL, and TIM, the NICM of Fiji, and NAB in Vanuatu in identifying and prioritizing subprojects and training activities. At the subproject level, consultations with community and stakeholders were undertaken to directly engage their participation in the implementation of activities.

A mid-term review (MTR) was conducted in 2014 to assess the TA and recommend measures to improve its implementation and achieve the overarching objective of ensuring food security. The MTR recommendations informed and guided changes in the scope of and implementation arrangements for the TA. The review constituted country visits in the five Pacific countries and extensive consultations with key stakeholders. The MTR results were shared with focal government offices during the Regional Planning Work Group meeting on 26 to 29 April 2015.

A revised TA completion date of 31 December 2018 was approved on 11 July 2017 to enable sufficient time to implement and deliver the expected outputs of ongoing activities, implement additional activities that support the outcome of the TA design and monitoring framework, as well as complete the financial closure requirements of the TA. ADB has directly engaged NGOs for subproject implementation.

### Business Opportunities

**Consulting Services**
The PMC supplied 91.5 person-months of international and 423 person-months of national consulting services to support in-country program management and implementation in the five Pacific countries. The firm was selected using QCBS evaluation (90:10) following ADB’s Guidelines on the Use of Consultants. The PMC’s contract expired on 30 October 2015. ADB now directly administers the following NGOs for subproject implementation: (i) WorldFish in Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste, (ii) Conservation International in Fiji, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu. The contract of Wildlife Conservation Society in Papua New Guinea is completed last 31 May 2018. IUCN Oceania, the World Fish Center (WFC), and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) were engaged through single source selection and provided a total of 51 person-months of consultant inputs to conduct special studies, research, and other selected activities related to climate change adaptation, environmental law and learning, and food security issues. IFPRI, WFC, and IUCN have completed their contracts on 31 October 2013, 15 November 2014, and 31 September 2015, respectively.

During the course of TA implementation, ADB has directly engaged the services of a program coordinator, project planning and monitoring specialist, and project analyst to assist in TA administration and implementation. To address the TAs current management and administration requirements in the extended period, the TCU now consists of the project director, planning and coordination specialist, project operations analyst, and monitoring and evaluation specialist. Additionally, ADB has engaged the following individual consultants to provide support services to the countries: (i) development planning and financial management/costing specialist to jumpstart the updating and costing of the NPOAs Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands; (ii) national events coordinator in Papua New Guinea from 24 August to 16 December 2016 to lead the preparation and organization of the CTI-CFF 12th Senior Officials Meeting and 6th Ministerial Meeting held from 31 October to 3 November 2016; (iii) business opportunities developer for Timor-Leste from 15 February to 31 March 2017; (iv) environmental law and learning specialist for Fiji from 26 April to 26 May 2017; (v) food security specialist for PNG from 1 August to 30 September 2017; (vi) knowledge management specialist/graphic designer. A youth and environment specialist, knowledge management and outreach specialist, and short-term skill-specific specialists have been mobilized to support the implementation of IEC activities and development of knowledge products.

**Executing Agencies**
During the course of TA implementation, ADB has engaged the following NGOs for subproject implementation:

- **WorldFish in Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste**
- **Conservation International**
- **Wildlife Conservation Society in Papua New Guinea**
- **IUCN Oceania**
- **World Fish Center**
- **International Food Policy Research Institute**

**Financing Plan/TA Utilization**

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