

Climate Resilient Islands Programme

The goal of Climate Resilient Islands

To strengthen community resilience to the impacts of climate change through nature-based approaches.

The programme is working with rural communities in Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Tuvalu, PNG and the Solomon Islands.

Climate change is rapidly transforming life in the Pacific. While Pacific people have adapted to environmental variation for thousands of years, the scale and speed of climate change today presents unique challenges to resilience at the community level, especially the adaptation to more intense natural hazards.

Climate Resilient Islands works with communities to build resilience through:

- Restoration and protection of community managed ecosystems
- Support for resilient food systems, including household food access and food-based livelihoods
- Disaster planning that complements subnational government strategies.

Project Timeline: April 2021 – March 2025.



The Project

Climate Resilient Islands supports the New Zealand Government's Resilient Ecosystems for Climate Change Adaptation (RECCA) programme. It will contribute to the nature-based solutions evidence base in the South Pacific, and also supports national climate change adaptation strategies in Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Tuvalu, PNG and Solomon Islands.

Live & Learn will build partnerships with relevant government agencies and stakeholders. In this way, Climate Resilient Islands will build upon existing work that has been done in the areas of climate resilience and nature-based solutions.

Project Outcomes

Communities engaged in Climate Resilient Islands will develop a community resilience profile that reflects their lived experience concerning ecosystems, natural hazards, resilient food systems, market opportunities and priorities for the future. This profile is the foundation for communities to determine their priorities and the pathways to strengthened resilience through three interconnected nature-based systems outcome areas:

1. Protection, restoration and maintenance of ecosystems
2. Climate resilient food systems
3. Strengthened preparedness to intensified natural hazards

Climate Resilient Islands then provides the following potential pathways for communities:

- Intergenerational Indigenous knowledge sharing
- Payment for ecosystems services (PES) models
- Protected marine and conservations areas
- Restoration and strengthening of Indigenous resilient local food systems
- Access to small grants to strengthen or establish community livelihoods. *orci, a semper tortor purus at velit.*

Nature-based Solutions

Investment in nature creates jobs and brings economic benefits. Nature-based solutions increase the resilience of countries to climate change, helps reduce the risk of disasters, protect human health, and improve water and food security.

Nature-based solutions include restoration of forests, mangroves and wetlands; coastal restoration programs; creation and maintenance of ecosystems and the sustainable management of land and seas.



Knowledge & Learning

Climate Resilient Islands will also publish tools that promote action-based, effective and creative learning models and teaching methodologies for a wide range of stakeholders.

This will include an online community of practice, or knowledge and learning portal, to share project approaches for community climate resilience action.

Climate Resilient Islands will also facilitate discussion and learning on climate resilience in island communities with government and development partners, civil society organisations and Indigenous organisations.