



Climate Resilient Islands Programme

Papua New Guinea

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The goal of Climate Resilient Islands

To strengthen community resilience to the impacts of climate change through nature-based approaches. The program is working with rural communities in Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Tuvalu, PNG and Solomon Islands.

Project Timeline: April 2021 - March 2025

Climate Resilient Islands supports the New Zealand Government's Resilient Ecosystems for Climate Change Adaptation (RECCA) program.

Programme 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 the 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 intensify natural hazards

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

- Intergenerational Indigenous knowledge sharing
- Payments for ecosystems services (PES) models
- Protected marine and conservation areas
- Restoration and strengthening of Indigenous resilient local food systems
- Access to small grants to strengthen or establish community livelihoods

Nature-based Solutions

Investing in nature creates jobs and brings economic benefits. Nature-based solutions increase the resilience of countries to climate change, help 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 sea.



Brief rationale for site selection

Participating communities are located in New Ireland Province, which lies in the northeast of Papua New Guinea. The province is home to around 200,000 people, of whom 80% engage in subsistence agriculture and growing cash crops such as copra and cocoa. Marine ecosystems are significant sources of livelihoods, and the province has an extensive Exclusive Economic Zone of around 230,000km². Extractive industries, including commercial logging, oil palm and mining, also play an important role in the provincial economy.

Climate projections show that New Ireland Province has:

- a very high chance of rising temperatures, leading to lower agricultural production, lower fish catches and degradation of reef system
- a very high chance of continued rising sea levels, leading to more frequent and intense inundation, lower agricultural production and loss of freshwater
- a very high chance of increased ocean acidity
- a low chance of changes to rainfall and increased drought and cyclones

In 2018, the Climate Change Development Authority (CCDA) selected New Ireland Province as a Climate Resilient Green Growth (CRGG) pilot province to address the adverse impacts of climate change.

During 2020-21, with financial and technical support from the Australian Government, GGGI conducted a climate risk assessment of the province (GGGI-2021) under the CRGG Project 2018-2022. The New Ireland assessment determined the province's exposure to the adverse impacts of climate change and identified several interventions in three priority areas (agriculture, water and fishing) for the province to enhance its resilience.

Sites	Ecosystem
Marai	Island
Limbin	Forest
Damon Palm	Coastal
Himau	Coastal
Himaul	Coastal
Katangan	Coastal
Matalai	Coastal
Nokon	Coastal

Work Programme Focus

The work programme will be based on the Activity Framework. Activities will align with the CRGG assessment and will involve:

- conservation of mangrove ecosystems and coastal environments
- management of watersheds to reduce flood risk and protect freshwater species
- promotion of climate-smart agricultural practices and crop species

Stakeholders

- Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA)
- Namatanai District Administration
- New Ireland Provincial Administration