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USAID Climate Change Adaptation Project Preparation Facility for Asia and the Pacific  
(Adapt Asia-Pacific)

# QUARTERLY REPORT

NINTH QUARTER: OCTOBER 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2013

## **Submitted By**

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## I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW/SUMMARY

PROGRAM NAME:	USAID Climate Change Adaptation Project Preparation Facility for Asia and the Pacific (Adapt Asia-Pacific)
ACTIVITY START DATE AND END DATE:	September 26, 2011-September 26, 2016
NAME OF PRIME IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:	AECOM International Development
[CONTRACT/AGREEMENT] NUMBER:	486-C-11-00005
NAME OF SUBCONTRACTORS:	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Kaizen Company, Development & Training Services, INC
MAJOR COUNTERPART ORGANIZATIONS	Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), Thailand
GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (CITIES AND OR COUNTRIES)	Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Vietnam, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu
REPORTING PERIOD:	October 1-December 31, 2013

### I.1 PROGRAM DESCRIPTION/INTRODUCTION

The Asia-Pacific region is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and related natural disasters partly due to the high concentration of people living in coastal areas and river basins affected by climate variability. Many countries in the region already suffer flooding, drought, and intensifying storm events, affecting lives and disrupting economies, especially in developing countries in the region.

Globally, the financing needs for climate change adaptation in developing countries for 2010-2050 are estimated at USD 100 billion per year. In 2010, Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change agreed in Cancun, Mexico to provide new and additional “fast-start” financing of USD 30 billion for 2010-2012, and set a goal of mobilizing USD 100 billion per year by 2020. Developing countries, however, face major capacity challenges in preparing project proposals to access these funds. An urgent task for the development community, therefore, is to assist developing countries in preparing high quality adaptation projects. At present there is no adequate mechanism in Asia meeting this need.

Under a technical support services contract from USAID’s Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA), AECOM is currently implementing the **USAID Climate Change Adaptation Project Preparation Facility for Asia and the Pacific (Adapt Asia-Pacific)**. The project supports the USAID/RDMA Regional Environment Office’s (REO) Development Objective of “*Improved response to environmental challenges in Asia,*” The project initially covered 13 countries in Asia and was later expanded to cover 14 Pacific Small Island Developing Countries. Adapt Asia-Pacific addresses capacity and information needs of target countries in accessing climate change adaptation funds and accelerating investments in initiatives that increase resilience to the negative impacts of climate change.

**Principal Objectives and Activities.** The principal objective of Adapt Asia-Pacific is to establish a fully functional and self-sustaining adaptation project preparation facility that will support preparation of specific projects, and build the capacity of the region’s governments to independently access climate adaptation funds. To establish a sustainable project preparation facility, the project will work closely with

funding organizations and government agencies from countries across the region in focused activities in five key areas:

1. Sustainable regional knowledge sharing platform including a website;
2. Annual forum to bring adaptation funds and project proponents together;
3. Climate change adaptation project capacity building program;
4. Technical assistance in preparing funding proposals; and
5. Overarching program management and coordination for the afore-mentioned four technical tasks.

As cross-cutting themes, Adapt Asia-Pacific will promote regional networking and gender mainstreaming.

## I.2 SUMMARY OF RESULTS THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2013

STANDARD INDICATORS	FY 2014 ANNUAL TARGET	FREQUENCY OF REPORTING	Q1 FY14	Q2 FY14	Q3 FY14	Q4 FY14	ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ACHIEVED TO THE END OF REPORTING PERIOD (%)	ON TARGET Y/N
1.1 Person hours of training completed in climate change supported by USG assistance/Number of people trained in climate change	4,000	Quarterly	2,012				50%	Y
1.2 Number of institutions with improved capacity to address climate change issues as a result of USG assistance*	8	Quarterly	0				0%	Y**
2.1 Number of climate change adaptation projects with facilitated access to finance	5	Semi-Annual	N/A				N/A	N/A
2.2 Number of facilitated projects with a specific gender component	2	Semi-Annual	N/A				N/A	N/A
2.3 Number of people benefiting from climate change adaptation project approved or in the pipeline as a result of USG assistance	50,000	Semi-Annual	N/A				N/A	N/A
2.4 Amount of investment leveraged in U.S. dollars, from private and public sources, for climate change as a result of USG assistance	\$50 Million	Semi-Annual	N/A				N/A	N/A
2.5 Number of climate mitigation and/or adaptation tools, technologies, and methodologies, developed, tested, and/or adopted as a result of USG assistance	2	Semi-Annual	N/A				N/A	N/A
2.6 Amount of funds in U.S. dollars from non-USAID sources mobilized and applied to support project preparation facility objectives	\$250,000	Quarterly	\$59,937				24%	Y
3.1 Number of regional environmental platforms created or strengthened	1	Annually	N/A				N/A	N/A

\*This was formerly reported under D.O.1 Number of stakeholders with adaptive capacity to cope with impacts of climate variability and change as a result of USG assistance

\*\*Adapt Asia-Pacific has initiated activities for achieving the performance objective under this indicator and will report on results later this year.

Note: The Results Performance Column depicts level of achievement expressed as a percentage of Actual versus Planned.

## **2. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS**

### **2.1 PROGRESS NARRATIVE**

AECOM continued with development and implementation of various program initiatives at both regional and national level during the first quarter (Q1) of fiscal year 2014 (FY14). Key activity highlights and results are provided below by project task. Overall, the project is progressing according to the work plan.

#### **TASK ONE: KNOWLEDGE SHARING PLATFORM**

##### **Summary of Key Accomplishments**

Under Task 1, activities were implemented in three main areas: (1) implementing overarching knowledge management strategies; (2) strengthening a regional knowledge-sharing platform; and (3) managing knowledge through an online Community of Practice (CoP). All components achieved the scheduled tasks in the first quarter.

##### **Knowledge Management Strategies Development and Key Action Implementation**

In July 2013, the revised APAN Sustainability Strategy paper was submitted to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for Asia Pacific (ROAP), which serves as the secretariat for the APAN Steering Committee. In the meantime, several key actions to improve APAN sustainability were implemented in Q1 of FY14: (i) expanding APAN as a network of networks to increase the accessibility of climate change adaptation information/knowledge; (ii) developing guiding documents to establish long-term sustainable operation; and (iii) promoting and increasing the “branding” of APAN.

In expanding APAN as a network of networks, Adapt Asia-Pacific assisted APAN to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Institute for Development Studies' (IDS) Eldis program, a leading online international development information service provider. The MoU seeks to formalize collaboration to share relevant climate change adaptation content, including on climate financing, between the APAN web portal and the Eldis website. This effort seeks to improve both knowledge-sharing platforms, allowing APAN to also expand its outreach. The MoU is currently under review by the IDS.

With substantive inputs from Adapt Asia-Pacific, APAN's core technical partners finalized the APAN Operational Principles and Guidelines to redefine its organizational arrangement and enhance efficiency and institutional memory.

To improve and guide APAN's overall knowledge management, the project also assisted APAN to develop a Branding and Outreach Strategy as well as Publication Guidelines, which will be available for a larger stakeholder review in the coming months. These documents will establish standardized copyright information and ensure a stronger, more consistent identity across all printed and online knowledge products in an effort to better position APAN as Asia-Pacific's leading network for climate change adaptation knowledge mobilization and capacity building. Additionally, the project is supporting APAN to draft new graphic design templates, PowerPoint presentations, e-communique newsletter, and publications.

##### **Integrated Knowledge Management Platform for APAN-Adapt Asia-Pacific**

Nearly one year after the Adapt Asia-Pacific-funded re-launch, the APAN web portal observed a decrease of 16-20% in traffic from the previous quarter, according to website statistics (Table 1 below). The project team will continue to monitor this trend to analyze whether this is an indication of a growth

plateau or is related to site content or features. However, when compared to the same period from the previous year (Oct. 1, 2012 – Dec. 31, 2012), there is a significant 250% increase in terms of page views.

Approximately 120 pieces of content were added to the APAN web portal during this quarter. The majority are knowledge products uploaded to the resource library and the rest are a combination of news and events. Additionally, two issues of E-Communique newsletters were created and uploaded during Q1 FY14. They were sent out to APAN's 5,409 subscribers. Some examples of the knowledge products uploaded to the web portal are:

- [USAID Mekong ARCC's Climate Change Impact and Adaptation Study: Summary Report 2013](#)
- [Nepal: How the people of Nepal live with climate change and what communication can do](#)
- [The Economics of Climate Change in the Pacific](#)
- [Global Landscape of Climate Finance 2013](#)

**TABLE I: KEY STATISTICS OF KNOWLEDGE PLATFORMS**

<b>Adapt Asia-Pacific (www.adaptasiapacific.org)</b>			
PERIOD	VISITS	UNIQUE VISITORS	PAGE VIEWS
Q1 FY13	1,505	961	3,737
Q2 FY13	1,892	1,296	4,941
Q3 FY13	4,018	2,613	10,510
Q4 FY13 (FY14 baseline)	3,272	2,226	8,262
Q1 FY14	1,864	1,377	4,558

  

<b>APAN (www.asiapacificadapt.net)</b>			
PERIOD	VISITS	UNIQUE VISITORS	PAGE VIEWS
Q2 FY13	7,185	4,585	26,542
Q3 FY13	9,224	6,772	24,670
Q4 FY13 (FY14 baseline)	9,838	7,156	25,325
Q1 FY14	7,798	5,854	21,177

  

<b>Adapt Asia-Pacific Knowledge Products</b>	
PERIOD	NUMBER OF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS (ARTICLES, NEWSLETTER, COP SUMMARIES, FACT SHEET, ETC.)
FY13 (total)	20
Q1 FY14	5

A website upgrade plan was developed for the Adapt Asia-Pacific website in Q1 FY14 based on a visitors' feedback survey and analytics data. The objectives of the plan are to increase the website's usability and ease of navigation, make the website appear more up-to-date, and better highlight Adapt Asia-Pacific activities and outputs. The plan also seeks to reorganize the website's information based on

commonly used content structure, rather than programmatic “tasks”. Analytics also show that most of the page views are for program information rather than news (the latter accounts for about 10% of total page views). Developing a revamped Adapt Asia-Pacific website is planned for Q2 FY14.

### **Knowledge Products on the Adapt Asia-Pacific Website**

Thirteen pieces of new content were added to the project’s website during Q1 FY14, including the e-discussion report on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Exchange Series on Climate Financing focusing on COP19, GCF and Business Involvement; progress of the Adapt Asia-Pacific, ADB and Cambodia’s Ministry of Rural Development community pond project; and an interview/CoP article on the Adapt Asia-Pacific Economics of Climate Change Adaptation (ECCA) program. Other related climate finance information posted on the Adapt Asia-Pacific website during Q1 include:

- [World Bank Supports Building Resilient Coastal Communities in Samoa](#)
- [EU pledges further €4million for climate change adaptation in the Maldives](#)
- [Multilateral Development Banks Release Joint Report on Climate Change Finance](#)

### **Community of Practice (CoP) on Climate Change Adaptation Finance**

To maintain engagement with Adapt Asia-Pacific’s stakeholders, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Exchange Series on Climate Financing was conducted from October 31 to November 29, 2013, timed to coincide with the ongoing climate negotiations at the 19<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties in Warsaw, Poland. The e-discussion sought to engage the project’s partners as well as the broader climate finance community. Entitled “COP19, GCF and Business Involvement,” the email-based discussion drew emails from 11 members and actual contributions from eight participants around the Asia-Pacific region. A [compilation of replies](#) was distributed to members and uploaded on the Adapt Asia-Pacific website.

A webinar for the Adapt Asia-Pacific ECCA capacity building program was conducted on November 14, 2013. The session, which focused on hydro economic models, was facilitated remotely by staff from IGES, Yale University, UNDP, and Adapt Asia-Pacific. Fourteen participants from across several time zones in Bangladesh, China, Mongolia, Poland, Thailand, the United States, and Vietnam took part in the hour-long webinar. A summary recording was distributed via email to all participants after the session.

Adapt Asia-Pacific interviewed Plan and Policy Analyst from Thailand’s Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), a project beneficiary, about her perspectives on the ongoing Capacity Building Program on the Economics of Climate Change Adaptation (ECCA), supported by Adapt Asia-Pacific in partnership with UNDP, Yale University and ADB. The email exchange particularly focused on how economic analysis of climate change is important for preparing high quality proposals to access climate funds. The interview was edited into an article/CoP knowledge product, which will be included in the January 2014 edition of the Adapt Asia-Pacific newsletter to be distributed to all stakeholders.

## **TASK TWO: ADAPT ASIA-PACIFIC ANNUAL FORUM**

### **Summary of Key Accomplishments**

As previously reported, the Adapt Asia-Pacific 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting was held on June 3 - 4 2013 in Nadi, Fiji, in close collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The Forum Proceedings were finalized, uploaded to the website, circulated among Meeting participants, printed and distributed to key stakeholders. All Meeting-related materials, including presentations and photos are available on the Adapt Asia-Pacific website (<http://adaptasiapacific.org/forum/2013-annual-meeting>).

## **Planning of Adapt Asia-Pacific 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Forum**

An initial brainstorming session was conducted in early December 2013 to identify major themes and potential collaborating partners for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Adapt Asia-Pacific Annual Forum to possibly be held in Bangkok, Thailand in mid-2014. Based on the discussions, an initial draft concept note was developed and circulated among project team members. Additional technical and logistical meetings are planned for January 2014 and in greater frequency in the coming months. This includes a meeting with UNDP and other development partners to explore details of possible collaboration for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Forum. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Forum will build upon developments in adaptation financing and project formulation in the region and lessons learned from the two past annual forums.

## **TASK THREE: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM**

### **Summary of Key Accomplishments**

Major accomplishments during the reporting period included:

- (i) first draft of a sourcebook on gender considerations in climate change adaptation was prepared and distributed for review by members of a Technical Advisory Group. Reviewers included representatives from major bilateral, regional, and global institutions, such as the Asian Development Bank, Climate Investment Funds, UNDP, Heinrich Boll Foundation, US State Department, and others;
- (ii) twinning arrangements between the Royal Thai Government and US agencies were facilitated by the project in concert with USAID/RDMA, including a likely arrangement between the National Research Council of Thailand and the US Forest Service to prepare a watershed management plan incorporating climate change impacts and resilience strategies that can serve as a model for watershed management in Thailand and elsewhere in Southeast Asia;
- (iii) as part of the regional program on the Economics of Climate Change Adaptation (ECCA), a roundtable of senior Thai government officials is being planned for Q2 FY14 to discuss how the products of the ECCA program can be mainstreamed into government processes;
- (iv) the Global Water Partnership joined the ECCA program as a contributing partner; and
- (v) Adapt Asia-Pacific partnered with six regional and global institutions in a working group to develop a course on cost-benefit analysis for the Pacific (P-CBA), which is expected to kick-off in January with a design workshop for major stakeholders.

### **Program for Capacity Building Support through Training Courses**

This program supports select mid- to senior-level government officials on a competitive basis to attend existing high quality climate change adaptation related training programs. During the reporting period, a questionnaire was developed to monitor the effectiveness of the training courses in building capacity of the participants. The monitoring will begin during Q2 of FY 14 and will be conducted every 6 months to measure how course participants are using the training to improve performance of their regular job responsibilities. No new training support was provided during this period; as regional institutions begin developing their training programs for the coming year.

### **Twinning Arrangements between the Royal Thai Government and the US Government**

At the request of the Secretary General of the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT), possible twinning arrangements have been pursued with the US Forest Service (USFS), the State of California's Climate Action Team, and the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). Adapt Asia-Pacific has agreed to facilitate this initiative to build on the project's successful support for preparation of Thailand's first national climate change research strategy. As of the reporting period, NRCT prioritized

developing a watershed management plan to include consideration of climate change impacts and resilience strategies through the twinning relationship with USFS. The watershed management plan will serve as a model for similar undertakings in Thailand and elsewhere in Southeast Asia. With assistance from USAID/RDMA, a visit to USFS by the NRCT Secretary General and his staff to kick-off the partnership is expected in March/April 2014, and may include visits to NCAR and California as well.

### **Economics of Climate Change Adaptation Program**

This two-year program, in partnership with UNDP, Yale University, and the Asian Development Bank, entered its second year in October. A regional training workshop was held in Bangkok from September 30, 2013 to October 4 2013, which was previously reported in the Eighth Quarterly Report. In Q1 FY14 the 11 country teams completed subsequent fieldwork, including surveys for the agriculture sector economic study. A partnership was established with the Global Water Partnership, which is providing additional financial support to the program. Preparations are underway for a third regional training workshop expected to be held in March/April 2014.

### **Pacific-Cost Benefit Analysis (P-CBA) Initiative**

Building on the ECCA program, Adapt Asia-Pacific assisted in the design of a new initiative in the Pacific to train government officials in cost-benefit analysis of climate change adaptation projects. The project is part of a working group consisting of representatives from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, University of the South Pacific, GIZ, and UNDP. A design meeting of stakeholders from the region is planned for January. Adapt Asia-Pacific provided expert input to the preparation and finalization of background documents for the meeting (i.e. course design, delivery options, and sustainability considerations).

### **Urban Climate Change Adaptation Course Development**

Preparation of the urban climate change adaptation course by the East-West Center (EWC) was expected to conclude in December, but EWC requested an extension due to disruptions in the schedule of the team leader. Completion is now expected in February 2014.

### **Sourcebook on Gender Considerations in Climate Change Adaptation Projects**

The sourcebook, being prepared with dTS, will be an on-line tool that can be used by non-specialists responsible for preparing climate change adaptation projects in order to incorporate gender considerations into their proposals. During the reporting period, a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was established that included representatives from the Asian Development Bank, Climate Investment Funds, US State Department, Heinrich Boll Foundation, Pact (an international development NGO), Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, UNDP, USAID/ Washington, and USAID/RDMA. A first draft report was released to the TAG for review on December 6, 2013, with a due date of January 6, 2014.

### **Technical Assistance to the Indonesia Climate Change Trust Fund**

The Indonesia Climate Change Trust Fund (ICCTF) was established as the main climate-financing portal for Indonesia. Set up under UNDP assistance, the ICCTF has three funding windows: adaptation, mitigation, and landscapes. Over the past quarter Adapt Asia-Pacific has continued its capacity strengthening support to ICCTF, with emphasis on:

- establishment of a project prioritization system for small scale projects;
- preparation of 5 small scale project concepts;
- development of the adaptation monitoring and evaluation system; and
- assistance with a financing strategy for ICCTF as it transitions from from UNDP management to become a fully functioning national climate change trust fund. The project also facilitated

linkages to the USAID mission in Jakarta, with discussions regarding potential funding from USAID.

### **Supporting the Samoa Trust Fund**

During the previous reporting period, Adapt Asia-Pacific, in collaboration with the World Bank, completed its support to the Government of Samoa on the design of a National Climate Change Adaptation Trust Fund. The project has since followed up with the Ministry of Finance (MoF) in early October to ascertain Government's position on the establishment of the Trust Fund. MoF has, however, indicated that there has been no decision taken as of yet. Adapt Asia-Pacific will continue to monitor the situation with respect to a possible request from the Government to support finalization of the Trust Fund's design and subsequent operation.

## **TASK FOUR: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN PROJECT PREPARATION**

### **Summary of Key Accomplishments**

Task 4 continues to pursue projects preparation for climate change financing to leverage the inputs from Adapt Asia-Pacific. During the quarter significant progress was made with project preparation in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Cambodia, Timor Leste, and Samoa, while preparing for upcoming project preparation activities in India, Nepal, and the Republic of the Marshal Islands. Specific accomplishments included:

- Submission of the US\$14.6 million Samoa "Enhancing the Climate Resilience of Coastal Communities" Project Appraisal Document (PAD) to the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) for approval.
- Submission of the final Project Document (ProDoc) for the US\$6.8 million Solomon Islands "Water Sector Adaptation Project" to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for review and approval.

### **Project Preparation Support to Samoa (UNDP)**

Adapt Asia-Pacific, in partnership with the Government of Samoa and the UNDP Country Office in Samoa, is supporting the UNDP-GEF Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) project "Economy-wide Integration of Climate Change (CC) Adaptation and DRM/DRR to reduce climate vulnerability of communities in Samoa". The project is addressing a range of climate change-related issues through an economy-wide approach that integrates climate change adaptation with disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction (DRM/DRR) into national development planning and programming, targeting communities as first responders to natural disasters. For the past two quarters, the Adapt Asia-Pacific team has been assisting the project preparation team to conduct technical feasibility/capacity assessments with key stakeholders, beneficiaries and potential partners in developing an UNDP-GEF/LDCF-compliant project document.

### **Project Preparation Support to Samoa (World Bank)**

This project will support 16 district coastal communities to build resilience to climate variability and change. The proposed project is to promote a broad "ecosystem based approach" (i.e. including ecological, physical, human and institutional interactions) that recognizes the importance of functioning ecosystems to enhance resilience of communities to climate-related impacts. Adapt Asia-Pacific assisted in the finalization of the Project Appraisal Document (PAD) for the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) project "Enhancing the Climate Resilience of Coastal Communities and Resources Project to the Samoan Government", which was submitted for approval in mid-December 2013 with project implementation planned to commence end of January 2014. The proposed project will be funded with a grant of US\$14.6 million from the PPCR. Adapt Asia-Pacific consultants (an international coastal

management consultant and a coastal engineer) contributed to preparation of the PAD as part of the project team.

### **Project Preparation Support to Timor Leste**

Adapt Asia-Pacific continued providing technical assistance to the Government of Timor Leste in the preparation of a GEF-financed project titled “*Strengthening Community Resilience to Climate Induced Natural Disasters in the Dili to Ainaro Road Development Corridor*”. The technical assistance team, including a project-sponsored International Ecosystems Specialist and an International Gender Specialist, organized the second field trip to Timor Leste in October-November 2013 to conduct an initial field assessment and data collection for the preparation of the final Project Proposal Document. The technical assistance was conducted in collaboration with the UNDP team. Once the project is approved by GEF, it will bring around US\$5 million of GEF funding to disaster risk management and climate change adaptation work in Timor Leste. The project proposal will be finalized and submitted for GEF’s approval in the spring of 2014.

### **Project Preparation Support to Cambodia**

Adapt Asia-Pacific has been assisting the Royal Government of Cambodia, Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), to study the impact of climate change on community water supply ponds in selected villages in the Banteay Meanchey province under the MRD and Asian Development Bank (ADB) Second Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project 2 (RWSSP2). The study team developed a conceptual approach with costing for each adaptation option, including both hard and soft system interventions that will adapt and adjust to future climate variability of the ponds. The team identified five main areas for adaptation under: (i) infrastructure; (ii) rural access roads; (iii) flood control, protection, drainage and water conservation approaches; (iv) social and gender; and (v) operation and maintenance. From the adaptation option designs recommended by the study, the team will support MRD in developing design guidelines to effectively “climate proof” community water supply ponds.

### **Project Preparation Support to Solomon Islands**

The Solomon Islands Water Sector Adaptation Project aims to reduce vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change, to increase adaptive capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change, including variability, and to promote transfer and adoption of adaptation technology. Adapt Asia-Pacific was part of the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) team tasked to: undertake site visits, provide consultation, conduct climate change vulnerability and adaptation assessments and adaptation designs of eight sites across six provinces. Final reports have now been incorporated into the final Project Document (ProDoc) for LDCF and Global Environmental Fund (GEF) approval. ProDoc consultation was completed in October 2013 and the final ProDoc was submitted for GEF approval at the end of November 2013.

### **Project Preparation Support to Vanuatu**

Adapt Asia-Pacific was part of the Project Preparation Grant Team (PPG) to assist the Government of Vanuatu in preparing a UNDP/GEF compliant, full-size, project document for the “Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zone in Vanuatu” project. During the quarter, the PPG team completed all site visits, consultations, climate change vulnerability and adaptation assessments and climate change adaptation designs of selected project sites, namely South Santo, North Ambae, Pentecost, Torres, Malekula and Aniwa. The final site assessment reports will be combined to contribute to the preparation of the final Project Document (ProDoc) for LDCF and Global Environmental Fund (GEF) approval. The final ProDoc consultation is scheduled for January 2014. The final ProDoc is planned for submission to GEF end of February 2014.

### **EbA Work with UNEP and UN-HABITAT**

UNEP is undertaking a global flagship program on ecosystem-based urban adaptation (in conjunction with UN-HABITAT). In Asia, six cities have been identified for inclusion (Kathmandu, Davao, Manila, Colombo, Khulna, and Makassar). Adapt Asia-Pacific has been assisting the project to justify the EbA choices from an economic perspective and develop viable project proposals. Initially, the focus was on Davao, Khulna and Kathmandu. During the quarter, one US\$4.2 million GEF project in Kathmandu has been identified from the analysis and is now under preparation. This project will involve organic solid waste management and ecosystem restoration along the Bagmati River, which runs through Kathmandu. UNEP/Habitat is now preparing the preliminary documentation for GEF funding. The Adapt Asia-Pacific-assisted project will be closely integrated with the ongoing US\$36 million Bagmati River Basin Improvement Project (BRBIP), financed by the ADB, which is designed to implement the government approved Bagmati Action Plan 2009–2014 to address the poor state of the upper Bagmati River basin.

### **Supporting National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), India**

In October 2013, USAID/India endorsed Adapt Asia-Pacific's proposed technical assistance to NABARD in the following three areas: (1) formulating methodologies for vulnerability assessments; (2) developing tools for evaluating adaptation projects for financing in NABARD's core business areas of agriculture and natural resource management; and (3) assisting national Executing Agencies in the preparation of climate change adaptation projects for financing by the Adaptation Fund. In Q1 FY14 Adapt Asia-Pacific finalized the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the three sub-activities and submitted them to NABARD for its review and comment. In parallel, the project finalized and signed a MoU with NABARD defining the roles and responsibilities of each for the overall activity. It is anticipated that the tasks will commence during the next quarter.

### **Climate Change Adaptation Work in Partnership with ICLEI - South Asia, India**

USAID/India also endorsed Adapt Asia-Pacific's proposed program of technical assistance to ICLEI - South Asia to take Rockefeller-financed urban resilience strategies in three Indian cities through the preparation and financing of climate change adaptation projects. The Manila-based Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA) will collaborate in this initiative. A tripartite agreement that sets out the individual roles and responsibilities for the overall assignment has been drafted. An activity plan has also been developed that assigns a responsible party to each of the steps. These two documents were discussed and finalized at an inception meeting at ICLEI - South Asia's Delhi office in late November. Adapt Asia-Pacific subsequently worked with ICLEI - South Asia in the development of the ToR and budget for its role in the assignment and the vetting of appropriate staff. In parallel, CDIA worked on organizing a training workshop for ICLEI - South Asia staff and other participants scheduled for mid-January on its tools and methodologies for prioritizing projects and carrying out pre-feasibility studies of bankable climate change adaptation projects.

### **CPEIR/Climate Finance Tracking Work**

Consultations continued with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and UNDP on undertaking Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (CPEIR) type activities in a couple of Pacific Island countries. Nauru and the Republic of the Marshall Islands are specifically targeted in FY14 for assistance in the tracking of climate change finance expenditures and carrying out a climate change finance assessment, respectively.

## **TASK FIVE: OVERARCHING PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION**

### **Project Management and Monitoring**

During this quarter, Adapt Asia-Pacific contributed to the development of USAID/RDMA Project Performance Review (PPR) materials by submitting documentation of project performance against key issues for FY 2013, and contributed to OES-EGC indicator reporting. The project team continued to collect and review data from project activities to track the progress in achieving project performance indicators. Data collected is stored in the One Source online PMP tracking system for further updating and reporting.

The project team visited USAID/Vietnam and met with the Vietnam Forest and Deltas (VFD) Program team to get familiar with the USAID VFD project activities and discuss potential areas for partnership between VFD and Adapt Asia-Pacific in this quarter.

### **Communication and Outreach**

The 5<sup>th</sup> issue of the Adapt Asia-Pacific e-newsletter was published in October 2013 and distributed to 3,011 recipients. It included articles on:

- i. [USAID's participation at Thailand's Climate Change Adaptation Expo](#);
- ii. [the outcomes of the 1st Exchange \(e-discussion\) Series on Climate Financing focusing on PIF's Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership](#); and
- iii. [regional perspectives from an Adapt Asia-Pacific project beneficiary - Mr. Amin Budiarjo, Secretariat Manager, Indonesia Climate Change Trust Fund \(ICCTF\)](#).

Articles for the 6<sup>th</sup> issue of the project's e-newsletter were drafted in December 2013 and will be published in mid-January 2014. It will include articles on: (i) the outcomes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Exchange (e-discussion) Series on Climate Financing focusing on COP19, GCF and Business Involvement; (ii) progress of the Adapt Asia-Pacific, ADB and Cambodia's Ministry of Rural Development community pond project; and (iii) regional perspectives from an ECCA program participant, Dr. Anupit Supnithadnapom, Plan and Policy Analyst at Thailand's Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB).

## **2.2 IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES**

As Task 4 begins to work with governments more directly, it must be recognized that it will take time to develop trust and costs per project are likely to be higher than participating as a member of a multilateral agency project preparation team. Further, expectations will often exceed Adapt Asia-Pacific's capacity, and failure to prepare a final project document is always a possibility.

## **2.3 INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES AND USAID FORWARD PRIORITIES**

### **Local Capacity Development**

Following the successful collaboration with UNDP and ADB in the development of the Economics of Climate Change Adaptation program in Asia, Adapt Asia-Pacific is working with UNDP, University of the South Pacific (USP), PIFS, SPREP, SPC, and GIZ in undertaking a stakeholder consultation and scoping of the program in the Pacific, including support for experts to work with USP in detailed design of the ECCA training program that would train government officials in the Pacific in cost-benefit analysis of climate change adaptation projects.

To ensure local ownership and sustainability of the capacity building activities, the project team will continue to identify additional local universities and training centers to engage in the organization of capacity building activities to be carried out by Adapt Asia-Pacific. Additionally, the project will continue

exploring innovative strategies for cooperation that will include leveraging resources, twinning partnerships and ensuring overall program sustainability.

#### **2.4 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

During this quarter, Adapt Asia-Pacific has started the recruitment process for a full time Project Preparation Team Leader to replace the current Team Leader who will move to a Senior Advisor position.

During this quarter, several short-term specialists have been contracted to support capacity building and project preparation work in the Pacific Island countries and in Cambodia, Indonesia, and Timor Leste.

#### **2.5 LESSONS LEARNED**

The main lesson learned is that governments generally don't clearly distinguish between business as usual and climate change adaptation, as climate variability also needs to be built into project design. Therefore, they are indifferent as to whether funds come from specialized climate funds or from official development assistance, provided their priority projects are funded. The rigor needed to distinguish climate change adaptation measures (and the associated costs) matters more to the funding sources than to the governments.

### 3. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

In the second quarter of performance in FY14, Adapt Asia-Pacific will focus on activity implementation under all tasks per the third year work plan. Key performance objectives for the quarter are as follows:

- Publish and post online project-related knowledge products (newsletter articles, briefing notes, fact sheets, success stories, etc.)
- Publish and disseminate the 6<sup>th</sup> Adapt Asia-Pacific E-Newsletter and develop articles for the 7<sup>th</sup> issue of the e-newsletter
- Conduct CoP activity (email-based discussion, live chat, etc.) and prepare summary report
- Prepare interview article on a project-related topic from country/donor perspective
- Develop and launch a revamped project website
- Develop MOU/arrangement between APAN and interested climate Knowledge Management platform on content sharing
- Update the project website and/or the APAN web portal with CCA finance and project preparation news, events and other items
- Develop a detailed preparation work plan and timeline to organize the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Adapt Asia-Pacific Forum
- Revise the concept note and develop a draft agenda for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Forum
- Develop a potential participants list including key speakers, fund managers, etc. to share with RDMA
- Continue supporting ONEP's climate change adaptation unit
- Finalize twinning arrangement between the National Research Council of Thailand and US Forest Service, and finalize arrangements for the NRCT Secretary General and his staff to visit the US
- Continue support on the Economics of Climate Change Adaptation Program in Asia, including organizing an ECCA Roundtable for Decision Makers in Thailand and preparing for the 3<sup>rd</sup> regional training program
- Participate in the stakeholder consultative design meeting for the Pacific Cost-Benefit Analysis initiative in Suva and provide expert input to background documents and final course design, as well as directional documents for course delivery and sustainability
- Finalize the course on urban climate change adaptation and arrange for the University of Hawaii to deliver it initially
- Finalize the sourcebook on gender considerations in climate change adaptation projects and begin the process of converting the document to an on-line tool to be placed initially on the project website
- Continue supporting annual competitive training program for government officials
- Support the Philippines DoF, as necessary, with the final mile of the Adaptation Fund (AF) accreditation process
- Continue to monitor the decision by Samoa's Ministry of Finance (MoF) to proceed with the establishment of the National Climate Change Trust Fund and possible need for Adapt Asia-Pacific's continued support
- Begin monitoring of government officials who have received training support from the project and establish and maintain networks of course graduates for continued sharing of information
- Continue supporting CCA project preparation in Cambodia

- Mobilize capacity building activity with Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MNRE) to support identification of investment packages under the Adaptation Fund grant
- Finalize technical support to UNDP project preparation in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu
- Commence support to Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) in carrying out climate change finance assessment in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)
- Continue to support ICCTF with project preparation and its funding strategy
- Launch technical assistance to ICLEI-South Asia for the identification and prioritization of urban resilience projects
- Support to NABARD, India to develop tools for vulnerability assessments and project evaluation and to prepare projects for the Adaptation Fund
- Prepare quarterly and annual reports
- Continue collection of data for PPR report
- Organize FY14 work plan review meeting