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USAID CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROJECT PREPARATION FACILITY  
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ADAPT ASIA-PACIFIC)

# QUARTERLY REPORT

Eleventh Quarter: April 1 to June 30, 2014

## **Submitted By**

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## CONTENTS

<b>1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW/SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>1</b>
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION/INTRODUCTION .....	1
SUMMARY OF RESULTS THROUGH MARCH 31, 2014 .....	3
<b>2. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 PROGRESS NARRATIVE.....	4
2.2 IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES.....	15
2.3 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES.....	15
<b>3. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES BY CONTRACT BUDGET CATEGORY .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>ANNEX: LIST OF PEOPLE TRAINED IN Q3 OF FY2014 .....</b>	<b>18</b>

## 1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW/SUMMARY

<b>PROGRAM NAME:</b>	USAID Climate Change Adaptation Project Preparation Facility for Asia and the Pacific (ADAPT Asia-Pacific)
<b>ACTIVITY START DATE AND END DATE:</b>	September 27, 2011-September 26, 2016
<b>NAME OF PRIME IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:</b>	AECOM International Development
<b>[CONTRACT/AGREEMENT] NUMBER:</b>	486-C-11-00005
<b>NAME OF SUBCONTRACTORS:</b>	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Kaizen Company, Development & Training Services, INC.
<b>MAJOR COUNTERPART ORGANIZATIONS</b>	Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), Thailand
<b>GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (CITIES AND OR COUNTRIES)</b>	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
<b>REPORTING PERIOD:</b>	April 1-June 30, 2014

### 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 or the Pacific 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 (USAID 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. USAID 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 USAID 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, USAID ADAPT Asia-Pacific will promote regional networking, gender mainstreaming and other social equity issues.

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS THROUGH MARCH 31, 2014

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	REMARKS
1.1 Person hours of training completed in climate change supported by USG assistance/Number of people receiving training in Global Climate Change as a result of USG assistance	5,000	Quarterly	1,988 (1,068 men hours & 920 women hours)	0	544 (201 men hours & 343 women hours)		51%	Y	
1.2 Number of institutions with improved capacity to address climate change issues as a result of USG assistance*	8	Quarterly	0	0	2		25%	Y	
2.1 Number of climate change adaptation projects with facilitated access to finance	6	Quarterly	0	2	5		117%	Y	
2.2 Number of facilitated projects with a specific gender component	2	Quarterly	0	0	3		150%	Y	
2.3 Number of people benefiting from climate change adaptation project approved or in the pipeline as a result of USG assistance	100,000	Quarterly	0	57,000	0		57%	Y	
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	Quarterly	0	\$65 Mil	\$94,516		130%	Y	
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	Quarterly	0	0	2		100%	Y	
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	0	\$26,551		35%	Y	
3.1 Number of regional environmental platforms created or strengthened	1	Quarterly	1	1	1		0	Y	On-going support to APAN

\*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

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**

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific continued with development and implementation of various program initiatives at both the regional and national level during the third quarter (Q3) of fiscal year 2014 (FY14) project implementation. Key activity highlights and results are provided below by project task. Overall, the project progresses according to the Work Plan.

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

Under Task One, 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).

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

Task One continued to support the project's contribution to the broader climate change adaptation knowledge community in Asia and the Pacific, particularly in the areas of strengthening the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) as a regional knowledge sharing platform and disseminating knowledge gained from project activities with other stakeholders.

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

Task One activities for strengthening APAN as a regional knowledge sharing platform are implemented in accordance with the APAN Sustainability Strategy paper. The last revised version was submitted in early February 2014 by IGES to the UNEP Regional Office for Asia-Pacific (ROAP). ROAP serves as the secretariat for the APAN Steering Committee (SC), whose latest meeting was held on February 21, 2014. A representative from USAID/RDMA and the Chief of Party of the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific attended as observers. The SC proposed and agreed that the draft APAN Operational Principles and Guidelines and proposed Sustainability Strategy paper be integrated into one document to serve APAN for long-term future use.

The SC appointed selected members to draft and circulate the new text to all SC members. The proposed draft of APAN's integrated Operational Principles and Guidelines has a simplified structure and a clearer description of APAN's role and operational framework for fostering partnerships and defining partners' roles in the Network. This is considered as a step forward for APAN to improve its sustainable operation and become a multi-partnered network. The new draft reflects the SC's vision that one of the success factors of APAN is in its increasing partnerships that enable many partners to make contributions and mobilize additional resources for larger impacts. Currently, the APAN SC is reviewing the new APAN Operational Principles and Guidelines for finalization.

In Q3 FY14, key knowledge management and outreach activities to improve APAN's sustainability included: (i) upgrading the APAN forum's microsite and other web portal functions and databases; and (ii) operationalizing the APAN/USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's Community of Practice (CoP), and others such as organizing an inaugural APAN Photo Contest to expand climate change adaptation knowledge to a broader range of stakeholders, and publishing a poster on APAN impacts to be featured at IGES's flagship forum (ISAP 2014) in Yokohama, Japan.

Other key activities from previous quarters were continued, including improved communication with existing network operators for harmonization and capacity development in web-based knowledge management.

In Q3 FY14, the APAN/USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific knowledge management team provided technical advice to, and shared APAN web portal development experiences with, the UNEP-International Ecosystem Management Partnership (UNEP-IEMP) team. UNEP-IEMP is in the process of developing an online platform on "Ecosystem-Based Adaptation through South-South Cooperation" (EBA-SSC). The APAN team proposed establishing future content partnership with UNEP-IEMP for EBA-related publications and resources.

The team is in ongoing discussion with the Institute of Development Studies' Eldis program – a leading online international development information service provider – to formalize a partnership to share relevant climate change adaptation content, including on climate financing, between the APAN web portal and the Eldis website.

The team is also in discussion with the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) and Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEP), which is the host of the Climate Knowledge Brokers Group Coordination Hub, to possibly present APAN/USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's contribution to strengthening climate change adaptation knowledge platforms at the annual Climate Knowledge Brokers Workshop (4-5 Oct 2014) and to provide technical inputs to support climate knowledge sharing capacity in the region. In addition, the team is in ongoing discussion with UNDP and UNEP knowledge management teams in Nairobi, Kenya, and New York, United States, to inform each other on their respective knowledge platforms – including, the APAN web portal, UNDP's Adaptation Learning Mechanism and Climate Finance Options websites, and UNEP's Global Adaptation Network website – with the aim of exploring synergies, reducing overlap, and enhancing coordination between the various knowledge portals.

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

This task focuses on maintaining the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific website to promote the project's activities. Activities included posting USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific knowledge products, sharing related climate finance information from the APAN web portal to the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's website (and vice versa), and updating the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's website and APAN web portal with the latest climate change adaptation finance and project preparation news, events and other items. The activities contribute to increasing sustainability of knowledge management for climate change adaptation in the region.

The APAN Web Portal Upgrade Plan, developed last quarter to improve and revamp the year-old current portal, is currently being implemented. The first phase of implementation to develop website templates for APAN's flagship forum microsite is near completion. The new microsite will be launched in July 2014 to better engage APAN forum participants and facilitate the registration process. Other improvement plans include improving the interface and listing of APAN news and events, strengthening the Adaptation Technologies and other databases to accommodate new data sets, and refining the Community page to reflect the current directions for Community of Practice activities that focus on time-bound events – such live chat sessions and email-based discussions – are currently being implemented.

<b>USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific (www.adaptasiapacific.org)</b>			
Period	Visits	Unique Visitors	Pageviews
Q4FY12	2,725	1,804	6,989
Q1FY13	1,505	961	3,737
Q2FY13	1,892	1,296	4,941
Q3FY13	4,018	2,613	10,510
Q4FY13 (FY14 baseline)	3,272	2,226	8,262

Q1FY14	1,864	1,377	4,558
Q2FY14	2,177	1,643	5,161
Q3FY14	2,524	1,888	5,391

<b>APAN (www.asiapacificadapt.net)</b>			
Period	Visits	Unique Visitors	Pageviews
Q2FY13	7,185	4,585	26,542
Q3FY13	9,224	6,772	24,670
Q4FY13 (FY14 baseline)	9,838	7,156	25,325
Q1FY14	7,798	5,854	21,177
Q2FY14	7,138	5,718	17,243
Q3FY14	7,313	5,741	17,275

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

Task One is continuing its support of the digital publication of the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Gender Sourcebook to present it in a user-friendly online web format. The USAID ADAPT Asia-Pacific team is planning to finalize the online version of the Sourcebook by the end of FY14.

### **Community of Practice for USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Exchange Series (e-discussion) was conducted from 21 May to 18 June 2014, focusing on climate change adaptation finance and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The revamped “Exchange Series on Climate Change Adaptation” reached out to APAN community members, beyond USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific stakeholders, to ensure greater sustainability. Under the topic, “Bringing Realistic Adaptation Financing into the NAP process,” the email-based discussion drew contributions from 16 participants from around the Asia-Pacific region, including government officials from Cambodia, Indonesia, Maldives, Nepal, Vietnam, and Solomon Islands and staff members from the Adaptation Fund, Practical Action, UNDP and other organizations. An e-discussion consolidated replies report will be distributed to members and uploaded on the APAN and USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific websites.

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

Task Two is in the process of organizing the project’s third annual forum around the theme of strengthening country systems to access and manage adaptation financing in the region based on the lessons learned from past two annual forums. The general implementation approach includes re-engagement with Asian counterparts, sharing case studies/good practices, and providing interactions between development partners and country representatives through a development marketplace model.

### **Summary of Key Accomplishments**

A concept note was developed and finalized with UNDP, the main partner of the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Third Annual Forum, under the mutually agreed theme: “Strengthening Country Systems to Access and Manage Climate Change Adaptation Finance in Asia and the Pacific.” The project team started working with USAID bilateral missions and

development partners to identify participants/speakers from the target ADAPT Asia-Pacific countries. The Forum will bring together senior national and regional government officials, development partners, private sector and civil society representatives to discuss a variety of experiences in strengthening country systems to better access and manage climate change adaptation finance.

Given the political situation in Thailand, the Forum, originally planned to be held in Bangkok, Thailand on 17-18 July 2014, was rescheduled to 15-16 September 2014 and moved to Siem Reap, Cambodia, in conjunction with the project's Task Three Economics of Climate Change Adaptation workshop.

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

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

Significant progress was made on the Capacity Building Support to Government Officials Program this past quarter. Both the Economics of Climate Change Adaptation (ECCA) Program and Pacific-Cost Benefit Analysis (P-CBA) Initiative are also making steady progress. The Urban Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience (UCCAR) course is undergoing substantial and substantive review now, and will be finalized and ready for delivery by the end of FY14. This training course's delivery mechanism and dissemination strategy are being worked out now in advance of its delivery in the last quarter of the calendar year. The recently completed Gender Sourcebook is being digitized and uploaded onto an electronic platform as a 'living and breathing' on-line resource. It appears promising that the Philippines' Department of Finance will be accredited soon as a National Implementing Entity (NIE) under the UNFCCC's Adaptation Fund (AF). 'On-the-job' (OJT) training was provided to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) in Samoa for the purpose of identifying and costing a set of sub-projects under an AF grant. 'How-to' vulnerability assessment and adaptation (VAA) guidelines and training materials to support this training were also developed. Work in Nepal with a Women's Only Community Forestry Users' Group has been successfully launched and will continue with a participatory VAA and ranking of climate risks to identify the most appropriate CCA strategies and activities to reduce those risks.

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

The Government Officials Training Support Program was successfully implemented in the past three months. More than 25 applicants are currently under consideration and five more already approved to attend courses in the next six months with current fiscal year funds. This increase in applicants is attributable to the implementation of a new Strategy based in part on the Impact Assessment Report that is being prepared by a project consultant and reviewed and finalized by staff.

#### **Assistance to Thailand's Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP)**

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific met with senior staff from ONEP's Office of Climate Change Coordination (OCCC), who showed strong interest in receiving USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's support in achieving accreditation as a National Implementing Entity (NIE) under the Adaptation Fund. However, to do so, it was agreed that ONEP must identify an appropriate Thai Government agency with convening powers and a strong role in central development planning processes, which is yet to be completed. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific also continues to provide ongoing support via two junior consultants, but is suspending that work in light of RDMA's 'stop-work order.' The junior consultants have been assisting ONEP with project implementation, monitoring, and report assessments for its "Community-based Adaptation Project" and "Ecosystem-based Impact Assessment Project". In addition, they assisted ONEP to organize consultative meetings on draft criteria of local VAA plans under the

“Regional Cooperation in Trans-boundary Adaptation to Climate Change Project,” and facilitated RTG participation at the UN Climate Change Conference in Bonn, and the Climate Change for Policy Makers meeting for ASEAN Member States in Hanoi.

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

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific staff arranged for all logistical support and accompanied a high-ranking Thai delegation from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) and the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) on a visit to the western US from April 19 – May 1, 2014. In visits to US Forest Service (USFS) regional offices: (i) a draft Letter of Cooperation (LOC) between USFS and NRCT was agreed to and has now been signed by both institutions; (ii) objectives and work priorities for USFS-NRCT cooperation on developing a vulnerability and adaptation assessment were jointly identified; and (iii) a work plan for joint activities through July/August was prepared. In meetings with senior staff from the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Colorado (NCAR), a separate draft LOC was agreed to that would pave the way for deeper and broader collaboration between NCAR and the Thailand research community on climate change. This LOC was expected to be signed in July, but this has been delayed by the current political situation. In a meeting with State of California officials, it was agreed that the relationship between NRCT/MoNRE and California’s Climate Action Team would remain informal for the time being. However, those officials did provide the Thai delegation with valuable information and an open invitation to future collaboration.

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

The ECCA Program progressed largely in accordance with 2014 Work Plan expectations during this reporting period. Most of the participating countries conducted field surveys in the agriculture and water sectors. Six of the 11 countries have completed their surveys. An expert was recruited to deliver workshop sessions on hydro-economic modelling. Co-financial support from the Global Water Partnership was confirmed. During a program status meeting between UNDP and USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific, agreement was reached on the need to begin consultations with program beneficiaries and other major stakeholders regarding how to maintain and build on the program’s accomplishments following the program’s completion.

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

The Options Paper, prepared by an USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific consultant was accepted by the Technical Working Group (TWG) of the P-CBA Initiative last quarter. A Letter of Agreement with the University of the South Pacific (USP) and its Faculty of Business and Economics has been drafted by USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific and presented to USP. In consultation with the UNDP and the TWG, the position of Regional P-CBA Coordinator has been contracted out by USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific for the first six months (July – December 2014) of 18 months of project implementation to conduct five in-country CBA training courses and initiate the corresponding country case studies from a base on the campus of USP in Suva, Fiji. The Coordinator’s position will be supported in a cost-sharing arrangement with the UNDP during its final year of implementation at USP. The ultimate purpose of this work is to develop materials for possible inclusion into the permanent curriculum of climate change courses offered by USP in the future to build the capacity of Pacific Island government institutions to carry out cost benefit analyses of climate change adaptation projects.

### **Urban Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience (UCCAR) Course Development**

The first draft of the UCCAR course materials was received by USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific at the end of last quarter. Since then, they have been intensively reviewed and revised by USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific and East-West Center (EWC) staff. Finalization of materials is expected to be completed by the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of FY14. An institution(s) is being sought to act as a delivery mechanism of these materials and to ensure their sustained use

and dissemination throughout the region. A number of conversations are currently underway with potential partner institutions as this phase of product delivery is being finalized.

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

The USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Gender Sourcebook was finalized during the previous reporting period. IGES has begun converting the Gender Sourcebook into a 'living' on-line resource of information. A web designer was recruited to hold discussions with the IGES/Adapt Asia-Pacific team regarding the characteristics of the presentation and accessibility of the on-line Sourcebook design, which is now underway.

### **DOF Accreditation Process in the Philippines**

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific continues to provide the services of a national consultant to support the Philippines' Department of Finance (DoF) response to comments received from the Adaptation Fund Panel (AFP) regarding its application for NIE accreditation as a national Implementing Entity (NIE). AFP's latest round of comments indicated that DoF has addressed most of its prior comments and wants to know how DoF will operate as a NIE, while complying with AF requirements for project appraisal, M&E, and internal audit. The forward-looking focus of AFP's latest round of comments holds out hope that the accreditation process is nearing a successful conclusion. In early April, the national consultant apprised USAID/Philippines on the status of the assignment and responded to the Mission's question, similar to AFP's, on how DoF will operate as a NIE once it secures accreditation.

### **Capacity Building Activities in Samoa (MNRE)**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), Samoa, requested USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific to assist in strengthening the technical capacity of MNRE staff (and other government departments) in the identification and preparation of climate change adaptation sub-projects under the UNDP-implemented (AF project for "Enhancing resilience of coastal communities of Samoa to climate change". The selected sub-projects were identified under 25 Community Infrastructure Management (CIM) Plans resulting in an adaptation response for coastal management at a nationwide scale (another 16 communities were covered by a similar World Bank PPCR project). Applying appropriate climate change adaptation (CCA) assessment tools through "on-the-job" training (OJT) in the identification, evaluation and selection of potential sub-projects from the CIM plans was the overall approach of strengthening government staff capacity. The OJT course, which ran from 03 March to 03 April 2014, resulted in the development of a set of guidelines and OJT training materials for future use. The success of the training hinged on the participants being able to work alongside the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific consultant and co-workers through a collaborative approach. A wrap-up workshop was conducted with the participants sharing assessments and results of their selected "pilot sites". The OJT systematically documented the steps in utilizing a set of vulnerability and adaptation guidelines and procedures to assess, design and plan future climate change projects. The knowledge gained by the participants can be applied in the implementation of the recently approved World Bank PPCR and UNDP AF projects as well as future government CCA projects. The training's final report is being finalized for submission to MNRE.

### **Women-only Community Forestry User Group's (CFUG) Demonstration Site in Nepal**

In June 2014, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific launched a two-year activity to develop a demonstration and learning site on community forestry, gender and climate change adaptation (CCA) in Nepal's Sarlahi district. The aim is to identify best practices both for CCA in community forestry as well as link CCA project identification and preparation efforts at the community level to funding sources. This learning site is being established in Bishnupur with a women's only community forestry user group (CFUG) in partnership with the Government of Nepal's District Forestry Office. This activity is being implemented through RECOFTC - The Center for People and Trees. Nepal's Ministry of Forests and Soil

Conservation expressed interest in institutionalizing the inclusion of adaptation considerations in community forest operational plans.

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

### **Summary of Key Accomplishments**

USAID ADAPT Asia-Pacific successfully completed preparation of five climate change adaptation projects, including three gender specific projects in Samoa, Vanuatu, Indonesia and Timor Leste in collaboration with development partners and relevant government institutions in these countries. In addition, the technical experts of the USAID ADAPT Asia-Pacific project continued supporting new project preparation initiatives in India (with NABARD and ICLEI) and Cambodia (Ministry of Environmental and Natural Resources and UNDP) to support national government institutions and development partners in preparation of bankable projects to be funded by international financial institutions. Finally, in partnership with the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS), USAID ADAPT Asia-Pacific is concluding its support to the Government of RMI in conducting a climate finance assessment.

Most of the project preparation support activities in the Pacific region are coming to a close and a decision on future activities in the selected 14 Pacific Island countries will need to be taken in concert with USAID RDMA. Asian-based activities are gradually moving into more direct assistance to countries, but as expected this approach will take longer and be more expensive than working as a supplementary resource to multilateral intermediaries like UNDP, World Bank, and ADB. These intermediaries remain appreciative of the technical assistance provided by USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific and it is anticipated that some level of involvement will continue to the end of the project. In this respect, mobilizing a consultant to assist ADB in screening climate change adaptation needs across its entire project portfolio is seen as a major contribution to adaptation planning and preparation in the region.

### **Project Preparation Support to Samoa**

The “Economy-wide integration of climate change adaptation and DRM/DRR to reduce climate vulnerability of communities in Samoa” project has involved supporting the Government of Samoa’s Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE). In collaboration with UNDP, Adapt Asia-Pacific supported MNRE to take an economy-wide approach to the integration of climate change adaptation and DRM/DRR to reduce climate vulnerability of communities in Samoa. The project activities comprise: (i) strategic integration of climate change adaptation and DRM in national policy frameworks and development planning through an economy-wide approach; (ii) enhance resilience of communities as first responders of climate change-induced hazards; and (iii) monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific provided one Infrastructure specialist and one Gender specialist in support of the UNDP Project Preparation Team (PPG) over a period of approximately 10 months. The two specialists provided their individual reports to advise the PPG in the formulation of the final project document. The gender activities recommended by the gender specialist focus specifically on enhancing the resilience of women to respond during climate change induced hazards through the development of business incubators for women with a sustainable and resilient value chain, including promoting diversified livelihood activities in accordance with the project outcomes. The infrastructure specialist recommended a “ridge-to-reef” integrated watershed management approach for Samoa resulting in both hard and soft measures and addressing institutional gaps in the efficient integration and management of climate change adaptation and DRR/DRM into national development planning and programming. The final project document has now been submitted by UNDP to LCDF/GEF for financing consideration.

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

The “Strengthening community resilience to climate induced natural disasters in the Dili to Ainaro road development corridor” project involved working with the Ministry of Social Solidarity, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Ministry of Trade, Industry and Environment (Government of Timor Leste), in collaboration with UNDP, to prepare a project document to access LCDF/GEF funding. The project is designed to protect critical economic infrastructure from climate induced natural hazards (flooding, landslides, and wind damage) through better policies, strengthened local DRM institutions, and investments in risk reduction measures within the Dili to Ainaro development corridor. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific provided a Natural Resource Management/Ecosystems specialist and a Gender specialist in support of the UNDP Project Preparation Team (PPG) over a period of approximately 12 months. The two experts worked with and advised the PPG in formulating the final project document. The Gender specialist recommended the creation of women’s groups in each community to implement climate change adaptation activities that benefit women and children during project implementation, e.g. climate resilient seed banks and home gardens. The Natural Resource Management/Ecosystems specialist recommended farmers shift to more diverse mid-successional eco-farming techniques, such as permaculture, and build on agroforestry and conservation farming already being introduced into Timor Leste, including integrating into farming practices a range of bio-engineering activities to address localized erosion problems. The final project document has now been submitted by UNDP to LCDF/GEF for financing consideration.

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

The “Adaptation to climate change in the coastal zone in Vanuatu project” (V-CAP) involved working with the Government of Vanuatu, in collaboration with UNDP, in preparing a complete UNDP/GEF compliant project proposal. The project focused on selected project sites in the coastal zone of several of Vanuatu’s islands. The project demonstrates how the coastal zone environment and communities can be protected from climate-related threats through climate resilient integrated community-based adaptation approaches. In support of the UNDP Project Preparation Grant (PPG) team, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific provided an International Coastal Zone Management Specialist, an International Gender advisor, an International Climate Change Resilience engineer and a National Climate Change Resilience engineer over a period of approximately 12 months. Based on findings from site investigations and consultations, the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific consultants developed a series of recommended approaches for climate change intervention in the targeted sites. The compilation of the consultants’ findings, recommendations and CCA activity outlines were provided to the UNDP PPG team leader for development of the project document. The range of CCA responses and interventions recommended by the consultants included: (i) addressing major environmental and associated socio-economic problems facing coastal communities from climate change in areas such as land degradation, biodiversity loss, and reef destruction; and (ii) building on and enhancing adaptation initiatives through climate-proofing of infrastructure of community access roads and paths. All infrastructure improvements will encourage re-vegetation to mitigate soil loss, improve the stability of the ground, and provide enhanced ecosystem resilience. A number of gender equality and social inclusion strategies and recommendations were included from the Gender specialist report, such as: (i) providing fisheries and agricultural adaptation training for women and youth; (ii) improving water quality and supply for improved health outcomes and to prevent community conflict through upgraded, climate-proofed water infrastructure and locally relevant WASH training programs; (iii) engaging women and youth in planning and management of marine conservation areas; and (iv) improving market access and profits for women in identified V-CAP sites through development of the market facilities and through enhanced production of high demand, climate resilient crops. The final project document has now been submitted by UNDP to LCDF/GEF for financing consideration.

### **Development of Guidelines on Climate Proofing Community Ponds in Cambodia**

As a continuation of the last quarter's initial support to the Royal Government of Cambodia, Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) study of climate change impacts on rural community ponds under the Second Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project 2 (RWSSP2), the USAID Adapt-Asia Pacific project preparation team prepared design guidelines and a promotional poster of selected design options for the climate proofing of community ponds. To ensure understanding of the recipient communities the poster was translated into the local Khmer language. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has prepared the draft final report comprising the design guidelines for climate proofing of community ponds and specific gender CCA interventions and recommendations. Subsequently, the project anticipates that the design guidelines along with selected gender CCA interventions will be used to prepare future sub-projects for funding under the ADB sector grant. The final draft report (along with the design guidelines, gender report and poster) is being prepared for submission to MRD for final comment.

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

The Royal Cambodian Government and UNDD requested USAID ADAPT Asia-Pacific's technical assistance to prepare the "*Strengthening the resilience of Cambodian rural livelihoods and subnational government systems to climate risks and variability*" project to be funded by GEF. The key objective of the project is to strengthen climate-sensitive planning, budgeting and execution at the sub-national level in two provinces while improving livelihood resilience for the most vulnerable populations through small-scale climate-smart water infrastructure and other livelihood activities. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is providing a national Gender specialist to develop the project's gender component in collaboration with the joint project preparation team of UNDP and Royal Cambodian Government. Over the past quarter, the Gender specialist worked with the PPG team to identify potential synergies with existing initiatives and design activities to specifically improve the resilience of rural ID Poor women and their livelihoods. The project preparation team is planning to finalize and submit the final project document to GEF in early 2015.

### **Integrating Community-Based Climate Change Adaptation in the Ridge to Reef (R2R) Program Project Identification Form (PIF) with 14 Pacific Small Island Developing States (PacSIDS)**

The GEF-approved "Pacific Islands ridge-to-reef (R2R)" regional program covering 14 PacSIDS allocated over US\$90 million from the GEF Trust Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund. The R2R regional program indicated the potential for additional funding from the GEF/SCCF to support climate change adaptation initiatives in the PacSIDS. UNDP Bangkok has requested USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific to partner in supporting the preparation of a full Project Identification Form (PIF) for submission by UNDP on behalf of the 14 Pacific Small Island Developing States for application under the Global Environmental Fund (GEF) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) linking the regional project toward a newly created project that will incorporate climate change adaptation. The full PIF will design on behalf of 14 selected PacSIDS, namely the Cook Islands, FS Micronesia, Fiji, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu innovative CCA activities in each of the Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) and Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) demonstration areas of the 14 PacSIDS linking those activities via the above regional project to both the R2R program and possible future scaling up of CCA through related R2R program approaches. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific will support the engagement of an International Project Development specialist over 3 months to lead preparation of the PIF.

### **Project Feasibility Study (PFS) for the City of Valenzuela – CDIA**

Cities Development Initiatives for Asia (CDIA) is a regional initiative established in 2007 by the Asian Development Bank and the Government of Germany. CDIA and USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific have agreed to cooperate with the City Government of Valenzuela and the Philippines Government in conducting a prefeasibility study (PFS) of the city of Valenzuela with the aim of reducing the adverse economic, social, and environmental impacts of flooding in the most affected area of the city. The objective of the PFS is ultimately to prepare an infrastructure investment project by leveraging international and national funds to help the city achieve its flood mitigation targets. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has engaged two consultants to work with a six-person CDIA team to prepare the PFS leading to financing of infrastructure investment. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is providing an International Economist and a National Environmental specialist in support of preparing the PFS. PFS preparation is now planned for the August-December 2014 timeframe. The two USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific consultants will provide intermittent inputs over the PFS preparation period.

### **Lao PDR - MoNRE Technical Assistance Support**

As a follow up to previous USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific support of the Government of Lao PDR Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) and UNDP in the preparation of the GEF-financed LDCF project “Effective governance for small scale rural infrastructure and disaster preparedness in a changing climate” and with the intention of strengthening institutional and capacity gaps in MoNRE and subsequent discussions with USAID Lao PDR and MoNRE, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific re-engaged in discussions to support MoNRE in accessing finance for climate change adaptation-related activities that could be addressed through a targeted program of capacity building. In response to MoNRE's request, a meeting was attended by USAID Lao PDR, RDMA and two representatives from USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific on 21 May 2014 to follow-up on potential technical assistance to MoNRE. The meeting resulted in the key partners agreeing to meet again to discuss the details of the collaboration. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is now awaiting notice of the follow-up meeting with MoNRE.

### **Project Preparation Support to ICCTF**

Over the past quarter, the main assistance to ICCTF has been in supporting finalizing of the business plan which will guide its evolution from a UNDP-supported trust fund to a fully government owned and operated climate change trust fund. A significant development during the quarter was the release of the final version of the national climate change adaptation plan (RAN-API), which indicates a significant role for ICCTF in its implementation. Also, the Government has indicated its intention to provide domestic funding to ICCTF and has proceeded to recruit a full-time Executive Director. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has offered to assist the revitalized ICCTF in future project preparation work.

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

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific continues to monitor its support to UNEP's draft program on ecosystem based adaptation (EbA). In Nepal, where USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific assisted with identification of a potential GEF-funded climate change adaptation project in the Kathmandu Valley, UNEP has recently indicated that it has appointed a consultant to collect additional information for preparation of a PIF for GEF funding. Subject to confirmation that this is for the same project that USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific originally contributed to, an offer has been made to UNEP to supplement its current consultant resources to prepare the PIF.

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

As mentioned in the previous quarterly report, the original intent of this cooperation was to support NABARD with the conceptualization and development of new climate change adaptation projects to access financing from the AF, where NABARD had received accreditation in 2012. However, prior to Adapt Asia-Pacific taking on this assignment, NABARD, through its executing entities (EEs), had prepared and submitted to the AF two

adaptation project proposals and three project concepts for financing under NABARD's US\$10 million allotment. Immediately upon being brought under contract, NABARD requested Adapt Asia-Pacific's project preparation consultant to support it remotely with responding to the first round of comments received from AF on the two submitted project proposals. NABARD, subsequently, received a second round of comments from AF on April 1 with an April 14 deadline set for responding. On the advice of Adapt Asia-Pacific, NABARD took the decision it did not have sufficient time at this juncture to properly respond and did not submit a further response. Rather, it decided to support NABARD prepare an appropriate response for the AF's next Board meeting in September. It was agreed that Adapt Asia-Pacific's consultant would work closely with NABARD and the two EEs to prepare a response to all AF comments by the end of July, for subsequent submission to India's Nodal Agency, the Ministry of Forests and the Environment (MoEF), and then to the AF Board. During an initial visit to NABARD in April/May, Adapt Asia-Pacific's project preparation specialist focused on preparing detailed guidance on responding to each of AF's remaining comments on the two project proposals, which were reviewed and discussed with NABARD and then distributed to the two EEs. The Adapt Asia-Pacific consultant met with the two EE project proponents in NABARD's headquarters in Mumbai to provide support and feedback on final document preparation. The Adapt Asia-Pacific consultant spent the rest of the reporting period working with NABARD to review and ready these two proposals for submission to MoEF by mid-July.

### **Climate Change Adaptation Partnership with ICLEI - India**

Building on the partnership with ICLEI in India, the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific team visited Bhubaneswar, Bangalore and Mysore, India, between June 9 and 13. Following the recent Indian parliamentary elections and the accompanying Code of Conduct, where meetings with state and city officials are generally not permitted, the purpose of the visit was to follow up with Bhubaneswar city officials and Odisha state officials to identify priority urban resilience projects for Bhubaneswar and to obtain data on the financial position of the city. The team met with Bhubaneswar's Chief Financial Officer (CFO), who facilitated the collection of information on the city's revenues and expenditures for the last four years. ICLEI will carry out an analysis of the city's financial position based on this information. The team also met with a number of officials from the city's line agencies to identify priority projects. While the reception by all officials was good, no priority projects immediately emerged from the various discussions and Adapt Asia-Pacific will continue to follow up with city officials and line agencies.

Meetings were also held in Bangalore and Mysore with state and city officials, respectively, to introduce the combined Adapt/ICLEI/CDIA initiative for taking the Rockefeller Foundation-financed, ICLEI-prepared urban resilience strategy to a bankable project with financing. Following an introductory meeting with Mysore City Corporation (MCC) officials, the visiting Adapt/ICLEI team commenced the first phase of the CDIA project preparation methodology, which entails the identification of priority infrastructure investment projects employing the CDIA City Infrastructure Investment Programming and Prioritization (CIIPP) tool and the collection of the city's financial data. In subsequent meetings with city line agency officials, the team identified several interesting projects, including SWM, stormwater drainage, city bicycle paths, and solar energy, which will be fleshed out and prioritized. The team will begin to plan for Mysore's project prioritization (CIIPP) stakeholder workshop in August/September.

### **RMI Climate Change Finance**

The full PIFS/Adapt Asia-Pacific team was in RMI from April 2-8 for follow-up consultations and convening a national workshop to present RMI's climate financial assessment's preliminary findings. Forty-nine participants attended the workshop on April 8 representing different line ministries, SoEs, local government, private sector, NGOs, academic institutions, etc. Following the RMI workshop, Adapt Asia-Pacific's consultant returned to

Suva to work with partners to prepare the draft report, which was circulated for comments on May 16. Adapt Asia-Pacific's consultant spent most of May in Suva with PIFS and partners on preparing the draft final report, which was completed in mid-June. During this period, the Adapt Asia-Pacific consultant briefed staff of the U.S. Embassy Suva on the status and key findings of the RMI climate finance assessment, who expressed interest in supporting similar work in future. PIFS advised in late June that the RMI Government has reviewed and approved the draft final report and authorized printing. PIFS further informed that the RMI Government plans to launch the final report at its side event at the SIDS Conference in Samoa in September. Finally, PIFS indicated that the RMI Government has already taken positive steps at the national level in line with key recommendations. This activity is now complete.

### **Using ADB's Climate Screening Tools for Investment Projects**

After some delay in launching this activity, it commenced towards the end of the quarter and has already made a significant contribution to supporting national governments in improving the design of investment projects for ADB financing. The consultant is using the ADB-wide screening tool to advise government counterparts and ADB-financed project preparation teams on what kind of climate change adaptation considerations should be built into the project designs before they go to the ADB Board of Directors for approval.

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

### **Project Management and Monitoring**

During this quarter, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific compiled project-related documents in preparation for the USAID contracted mid-term evaluation. The project team also 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.

### **Communication and Outreach**

The 7<sup>th</sup> issue of the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific e-newsletter was published in April 2014. It included articles on: (i) the progress of USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's support to the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment in Samoa on the use of V&A methodology; (ii) the outcomes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> email-based CoP activity (the Exchange Series on Climate Change Adaptation) on the conceptual difference between 'adaptation' and 'resilience'; and (iii) perspectives from a gender expert on integrating gender in climate change adaptation proposals.

## **2.2 IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES**

### **Annual Forum Preparation**

As the Forum date has been rescheduled for September 15-16 in Siem Reap, Cambodia, the participant nomination process has been extended from the original schedule to fit the new timeline.

### **Assistance to ONEP**

Technical assistance to ONEP has been suspended in accordance with the USG position in response to the current political situation in Thailand.

## **2.3 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

During this quarter, USAID RDMA approved the new DCOP for USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific, replacing the former DCOP who left the project in May. In the

transition period while the new DCOP was being approved, AECOM Home Office provided field support through the Program Manager and Program Coordinator in Bangkok.

Several short-term specialists have been contracted to support capacity building and project preparation work in the Pacific Island countries, the Philippines and India.

### **3. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER**

In the fourth quarter of performance in FY14, USAID 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:

- Present APAN's finalized Operational Principles and Guideline
- Present an agreement/arrangement or summary of discussion to make mutual knowledge/data sharing possible with a knowledge partner (Eldis, CDKN, under discussion)
- Make improvements in USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific and APAN websites
- Present finalized USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific online Gender Sourcebook hosted under APAN website
- Publish a quarterly newsletter and E-CoP summaries
- Preparation for the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific 3rd Annual Forum to be held in Siem Reap on September 15-16 in partnership with UNDP
- Support participation of the selected government officials from Asia in climate change adaptation-related training courses under the Government Officials Training Support Program
- Finalize arrangements and conduct the third and penultimate regional ECCA training workshop to be held in Siem Reap on September 17-20, 2014
- Finalize the UCCAR course materials and explore identification of an institution partner to act as a delivery mechanism for these materials and sustain their dissemination in the region
- Launch 'living' on-line Gender Sourcebook as depository of information and the definitive resource on the topic
- Continue working with the Women's Only CFUG and The Center for People and Trees (RECOFTC) and the Nepali community to conduct participatory vulnerability assessment, followed by the identification and ranking of adaptation options.
- Continue to support DoF achieve AF accreditation
- Monitor need for additional institutional strengthening of ICCTF project preparation capacity Continue support to ICLEI in carrying out identification and prioritization of urban climate resilience projects in Indian cities of Bhubaneswar, Shimla and Mysore
- Continue support to NABARD, India, in the development of a vulnerability assessment tool and the preparation of climate adaptation projects
- Commence support to CDIA in Valenzuela City, Metro Manila, on preparing a flood risk management project
- Continue to support national governments and ADB consultant teams in the application of an ADB climate adaptation screening tool for the preparation of investment projects for AB financing
- Prepare a "lessons learned" document from project preparation experience to date in Asia and the Pacific
- Work with RDMA on providing requested additional project information for mid-term evaluation
- Continue collection of data for monitoring and evaluation.