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

QUARTERLY REPORT

Thirteenth Quarter: October 1 to December 31, 2014

Submitted By

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January 31, 2015

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1. 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 27, 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, 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 DECEMBER 31, 2014

STANDARD INDICATORS	FY 2015 ANNUAL TARGET	FRE-QUENCY OF RE-PORTING	Q1 FY15	Q2 FY15	Q3 FY15	Q4 FY15	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	4,000/150	Quarterly	1,462/84 (1,022 men hours & 440 women hours; 56 men & 28 women)				37%	Y	
1.2 Number of institutions with improved capacity to address climate change issues as a result of USG assistance*	10	Quarterly	0				0%	Y*	
2.1 Number of climate change adaptation projects with facilitated access to finance	7	Quarterly	2				29%	Y	
2.2 Number of facilitated projects with a specific gender component	2	Quarterly	0				0%	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	87,544				88%	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	\$100 Million	Quarterly	\$106 Million				106%	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	3	Quarterly	1				33%	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	\$60,447				24%	Y	
3.1 Number of regional environmental platforms created or strengthened	1	Quarterly	1				N/A	Y	On-going support to APAN

*Ongoing technical support under these indicators will continue through the end of fiscal year. Results will be reported at the end of the fiscal year or prior to that if the technical assistance completed earlier.

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

2. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific continued with program activities at both the regional and national level during the first quarter (Q1) of fiscal year 2015 (FY15). Key activity highlights and results are provided below by project task. Overall, the project progresses as planned.

TASK ONE: REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE SHARING PLATFORM

Summary of Key Accomplishments

Task 1 continues to develop USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific knowledge products and disseminate them widely through a strengthened regional knowledge sharing platform (i.e. APAN) and other networks, as appropriate. In FY15, Task 1 aims to increase the number of knowledge products produced. The knowledge products will consolidate and document lessons learned, best practices, and grounded project preparation experiences accumulated over the past two years of working in the region (mainly derived from Task 3 and 4). APAN's knowledge sharing capacity will also be strengthened by connecting with other major networks in the field.

Key achievements in FY15Q1 under Task 1 included the official launch of the Online Gender Sourcebook in December 2014, the successful 6th Exchange Series on Climate Change Adaptation and multiple key updates to the APAN website.

Knowledge Products on the APAN Web Portal/USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Website

In FY15 Q1, the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Online Gender Sourcebook was published and hosted on the APAN web portal. The Sourcebook is accessible via this link: <http://asiapacificadapt.net/gender-sourcebook>. On December 2, 2014, the Sourcebook was officially launched at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand. The launch drew over 35 Bangkok-based participants from international development organizations, Thai government agencies, NGOs, research institutes, and the general public. A press release was also drafted for distribution through RDMA.

In response to the mid-term evaluation, Task 1 will strive to enhance the development and dissemination of knowledge products (such as, toolkits; training curriculums; case studies; and guidance documents). In FY15Q1, a plan of action with an indicative list of knowledge products to be produced in FY2015 was developed. The plan also outlines necessary resources needed and identifies outreach opportunities for each product. The knowledge products identified include:

1. Compendium: International Climate Change Adaptation Funds
2. Case Study: Lessons Learned from USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Support to Countries' AF Accreditation Process
3. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Project Preparation Guidelines
4. NABARD Package of Knowledge Products (Adaptation Project Evaluation Checklist; Appraisal Guide; and Vulnerability Assessment Tool)
5. Toolkit on the Economics of Climate Change Adaptation
6. Pacific Cost-Benefit Analysis: Training Materials and Case Study

The existing USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Compendium on International Climate Change Adaptation Funds, which is accessible on the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific website: <http://adaptasiapacific.org/funds-compendium>, is also currently being reviewed and updated as it was last updated in January 2014. The Compendium is also being formatted as a more user-friendly, printable knowledge product, is being hosted on the APAN web portal, and is being developed into a possible infographic by the end of FY15Q2.

Community of Practice for USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific

This activity focuses on piloting and strengthening the communities of practice of USAID Adapt

Asia-Pacific and APAN stakeholders. These communities of practice enable government officials and key practitioners in target countries to interact with experts and with each other to gain knowledge in an online space.

The 6th Exchange Series on Climate Change Adaptation (email-based discussion) was conducted from 2 Dec 2014 to 9 Jan 2015 focusing on “GCF Capitalization and the Prospects for a Successful 2015 Climate Deal.” This Exchange was conducted at the margins of COP20 in Lima, Peru to stimulate thinking among CoP participants, including APAN, about the COP20 negotiations as they relate to climate finance, the capitalization and pledging of funds to the GCF, and how that might impact the post-2015 climate agenda. This email-based discussion was launched and moderated by Task Four Team Leader. Due to the holiday season, this Exchange drew 5 contributions from the region, including from government officials from Nepal and the Philippines and partners from the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies. An e-discussion consolidated replies report was uploaded on the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific website and the APAN web portal accessible via this link:

<http://www.asiapacificadapt.net/resource/6th-exchange-series-gcf-capitalization-and-prospects-successful-2015-climate-deal-e>.

The 7th Exchange Series on Climate Change Adaptation in Q2 FY2015 will possibly focus on the topic of incorporating gender considerations into climate change adaptation proposal writing to create greater awareness and use of the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Online Gender Sourcebook. A live chat session with a gender expert is also planned to be implemented in Q2 FY2015.

Strengthening Knowledge Management Capacity and Key Action Implementation

In FY14 Q4, the team was in discussion with the Institute of Development Studies’ Eldis program – a leading online international development information service provider – to formalize collaboration to share relevant climate change adaptation content, including on climate financing, between the APAN web portal and the Eldis website. This collaboration includes harmonizing search terms using a common set of vocabulary, developing user stories, and being involved in IDS’s Global Open Knowledge Hub that aims to improve the supply and accessibility of key content to policymakers. A final Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been circulated to the APAN Steering Committee Chair and Co-Chair for comments, as well as to IDS, to request their organizations sign the MOU.

An initial stocktaking of the proposed 2015 activities of APAN’s regional and thematic nodes was conducted to identify potential collaboration for USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific’s capacity development activities for Task 2. The summary is presented in Task 2 section below.

In FY15Q1, 10 web updates were posted on the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific website and APAN web portal. Uploaded contents and their links are listed below:

- Resource: [The 5th Exchange Series on Climate Financing: E-Discussion Report](#)
- News: [USAID/UNDP Forum: More robust project proposals needed to improve countries’ access to adaptation finance](#)
- News: [Economics training helps governments in Asia make better decisions for climate change adaptation](#)
- News: [In conversation with Samoa’s Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment: Developing Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Guidelines](#)
- News: [USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Builds Capacity on the Economic Analysis of Climate Change Projects in the Pacific](#)
- Event: [Regional Launch of the USAID Online Sourcebook for Integrating Gender in Climate Change Adaptation Projects](#)
- Update: [USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Fact Sheet](#)
- Update: [Climate Adaptation: Government Training Support Program](#)
- News: [Green Climate Fund hits USD 10 billion threshold](#)
- Resource: [Activity Brief: 4th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum](#)

The APAN Knowledge Management team met with web developers in January 2015 to:

- Improve the interface and listing of APAN news and events,
- To strengthen the section of the website on Adaptation Technologies and Good Practices databases to accommodate new data sets, and
- To refine the Community page to reflect the current direction for Community of Practice activities that focus on time-bound events – such as, live chat sessions and email-based discussions.

The annual online survey to gather feedback from users was conducted in Q1 FY15 and closed in January 2015. Responses were received from 32 users from across the Asia-Pacific region. Please see Annex II for the complete survey results.

Traffic to the both the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific and the APAN websites remains strong, as presented in the following table. The total visits, unique visitors and total pageviews for both websites show consistent trends over the last four quarters. Although the APAN website was hit by a series of malicious attacks in December 2014, it was rapidly restored to normal operations.

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific (www.adaptasiapacific.org)			
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	2,674	1,992	5,635
Q4FY14	3,389	2,205	8,074
Q1FY15	2,996	2,190	6,211
APAN (www.asiapacificadapt.net)			
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	7,533	5,918	17,699
Q4FY14 – Main site	9,744	6,817	32,952
Q4FY14 – 4 th Adaptation Forum microsite	7,924	4,374	20,369
Q1FY15*	17,063	14,996	27,957

*Note: During 8-11 December, a series of malicious attacks on the APAN site led to the spike in traffic.

TASK TWO: USAID ADAPT ASIA-PACIFIC ANNUAL FORUM

Summary of Key Accomplishments

In response to the recommendation by the mid-term evaluation it has been agreed with RDMA that in FY15, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific will not host an annual forum. Instead the project will support at least two events hosted by APAN's sub-regional nodes or its partners that are directly relevant and contribute to the capacity building objectives of the project.

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has agreed to participate in two plenary sessions in the Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific 2015 Congress hosted by Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and organized by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability to be held on February 11-13, 2015 in Bangkok. The project's two interventions will showcase and share with a wider audience USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's experience and lessons learned on integrating gender considerations into the planning and financing of climate change adaptation and urban resilience. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's speakers and panelists will provide learning opportunities to a number of invited government officials at the sub-national level, representatives from major partner organizations, and key stakeholders.

Through discussion with APAN and its partner organizations, a few possible options for collaboration with APAN regional and thematic nodes on training opportunities have been identified. Collaboration with the Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA, APAN's node for South Asia) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP, APAN's node for the Pacific) are currently being considered as potential partners for organizing events. Common areas of interest as possible themes for these joint capacity development workshops are: (i) a South Asian countries and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and a possible role for USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific following up and revisiting the discussions from the workshop co-organized by USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific, CANSA, and USAID LEAD project in July 2013; and (ii) linkages between the recently launched Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM) and the SPREP Regional Implementing Entity (RIE) in addressing the Pacific region's perpetual needs of securing adaptation financing following up the discussions during the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific 2nd Annual Meeting held in Nadi, Fiji in June 2013.

Other possible opportunities for collaboration with APAN's nodes that USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific could consider are the regional symposium on 'adaptation planning and climate finance' to be organized by Korea Environment Institute (KEI, an APAN supporting partner) in the 2nd week of July in Korea and a climate risk management workshop to be organized by ADB (date and venues to be identified). The former will gather around 200 participants and other international organizations such as UNEP may join. For the latter, the first installment in a series is going to be in February 2015 in Manila.

TASK THREE: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

Summary of Key Accomplishments

Work under Task Three made good progress during FY15Q1, with one initiative concluded:

- Support to ONEP to deliver its national mandate on climate change adaptation wrapped up in recognition of the evolving bilateral cooperation relationship between the US and Thai governments. ONEP was highly appreciative of the assistance received.
- An additional four government officials from around the region were supported under the Government Training Support Program to attend targeted international training programs.
- The Watershed-based Adaptation to Climate Change initiative held its first team working session attended by the US Forest Service, representatives from four governments in Southeast Asia, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific staff and NGO and university staff. A one-day regional workshop was conducted during which significant progress was made on both technical and procedural fronts.

- Under the ECCA program, the 10 participating country teams are continuing their field work and data analysis with draft reports expected in Q3.
- The Pacific Cost-Benefit Analysis made progress on two major fronts, delivery of training to three countries (FSM, Vanuatu, and Samoa) and planning for the development of a 10-credit module for integrating this training program into the USP curriculum.
- The Department of Finance in the Philippines took the decision in November to move forward on Adaptation Fund (AF) accreditation, building on past USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific support, and has prepared a Department Order to authorize the creation of an internal audit department, a major stumbling block for AF accreditation.
- The continuing support to ICCTF is set to move into a new phase where ICCTF will receive assistance to develop project proposals.

Government Training Support

In FY15Q1, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific supported four government officials from Nepal's Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment and Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Lao PDR's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, and Bangladesh's Barisal City Corporation in training courses in 'Climate Adaptation and Resilience Cities', 'GIS for Disaster Risk Management' and 'Flood Disaster Risk Management in a Changing Climate'. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific reached out to more candidates by contacting bilateral missions and government focal points for their suggestion of individuals who may be interested in applying for training support. The list of climate adaptation and finance courses available in 2015 was updated on the APAN/Adapt Asia-Pacific's websites.

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

After three years of assistance in building ONEP's capacity to deal with national level climate change adaptation and climate financing issues, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific wound down this initiative during the final quarter of 2014. In line with the new framework for USAID-Thailand cooperation, direct bilateral assistance to ONEP has now been discontinued.

Watershed-based Adaptation to Climate Change (WACC)

Following the October 2014 visit to Thailand by the US Forest Service team - during which the broad methodology, project area and other main project components were agreed - the Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF) began field work in October. SDF is under contract to the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) and will implement the core field work. Ramkhamhaeng University began undertaking downscaled modelling. NRCT, at the request of the representatives from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand, sent a formal invitation to senior authorities in each country to participate in WACC through the end of 2015; a schedule of activities and terms of reference for the country representatives was also provided to the countries by NRCT. NRCT requested meetings with senior officials in each of the countries to try and quickly secure their official endorsement of participation. The first NRCT visit has been scheduled for late January to Vietnam. Visits to Cambodia and Lao PDR await a response from the respective countries.

Economics of Climate Change Adaptation Program

Following the 3rd regional workshop held in Siem Reap in September, the country teams returned home to continue and finalize data analysis. Some countries, e.g. Lao PDR, Nepal and Vietnam, are still collecting data. A meeting was held with a United Nations University representative to discuss a draft course outline based on ECCA that is proposed to be delivered region-wide through the UNU system. The representative provided comments on the outline, which is currently being revised.

Pacific-Cost Benefit Analysis (P-CBA) Initiative

Since January 2013, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is leveraging the lessons learned from the

ongoing USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific/UNDP Economics of Climate Change Adaptation capacity building program in Asia to extend Cost-Benefit Analysis training across the Pacific region (P-CBA). The P-CBA training is being developed over an 18-month period in close collaboration with the UNDP and GIZ with the University of the South Pacific, as a potential host institution to incorporate the resulting training materials into its permanent curriculum for its graduate students in the Faculty of Business and Economics (FBE). During the reporting period, CBA training was delivered to the three PICS of FSM, Vanuatu, and Samoa, principally through in-country activities and mentoring. The USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific-supported Program Coordinator is liaising with other P-CBA partners in preparing two sets of ToRs (one for a USP lecturer, the other for a training specialist) for developing a 10-credit module for integrating the existing P-CBA training materials into the USP curriculum. This work will commence in FY15Q2. UNDP and USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific are in discussion to cost-share the continuation of the Program Coordinator position through mid-2015.

Urban Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience (UCCAR) Course Development

Work continued on developing the modules as part of the UCCAR course during Q4 of FY2014. The first five modules (of a seven-module set) on how to conduct Vulnerability and Resilience-building Assessments (VRAs) have now been internally reviewed with final revisions being made. Work continues on developing the final two modules on project preparation issues and accessing financing from international CCAR funds. Work on the UCCAR course is expected to be completed in the 2nd quarter of FY2015, while different delivery modalities are considered and decided upon by the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific project team.

DOF Accreditation Process in the Philippines

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has been supporting DoF for the last two and a half years with its pursuit of accreditation as a national implementing entity (NIE) with the UNFCCC Adaptation Fund (AF). The principal issue remains the inadequacy of DoF's internal audit system and procedures per AF criteria. A meeting was convened with DoF senior management in Manila in late November to take stock of the current situation; gauge the impact of the project's support to date; assess DoF's continued interest in pursuing AF accreditation; and determine DoF's interest/need for continued USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific support. DoF officials indicated in this meeting that it is now prepared to move forward with strengthening its internal audit system per AF criteria. DoF is drafting an internal Department Order for the Secretary's signature to authorize this activity. The approved Department Order will allow DoF to hire staff and build the capacity of this unit. Assuming the Department Order is approved and DoF receives a positive, time-bound response from AF regarding next steps for accreditation, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific, with USAID RDMA approval, is prepared to discuss the provision of the following additional assistance: (i) continued support of the national consultant to coordinate the structuring of the internal audit unit and to respond to all other remaining comments; and (ii) contracting of a national specialist with experience in internal audit to help DoF in the nuts and bolts of structuring the new unit. The project awaits word from DoF on the status of the Department Order.

Supporting Indonesia Climate Change Trust Fund (ICCTF)

During the quarter, USAID Jakarta advised USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific that a way had been found to transfer USAID funds to ICCTF and the bilateral mission is keen for the project to assist ICCTF in developing project proposals for utilization of those funds. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific indicated to ICCTF that it is willing to continue assisting in project preparation and as soon as the funds transfer can take place USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific will mobilize additional resources to ICCTF.

TASK FOUR: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN PROJECT PREPARATION

Summary of Key Accomplishments

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has continued its project preparation support in three main domains—through intermediaries like UNDP (in Cambodia, and Timor Leste); directly with

country agencies (in Indonesia, India); and with key organizations for future sustainability of the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific approach to project preparation (with ADB, ICLEI and CDIA). Maintaining a balanced approach to these three domains is critical for the project to continue reaching its milestones and targets, as direct assistance to countries is proving to be slower and with less leverage than working through the multilateral intermediaries. Some important milestones reached during the quarter included approval of 2 Adaptation Funds projects in India through NABARD and commencement of the Valenzuela project with CDIA.

Project Preparation Support to Samoa

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific supported the preparation of the project “Economy-wide integration of climate change adaptation and DRM/DRR to reduce climate vulnerability of communities in Samoa”. The project involved supporting the Government of Samoa’s Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), in collaboration with UNDP, to take an economy-wide approach to the integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management/disaster risk reduction to reduce climate vulnerability of communities in Samoa. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific provided support in the preparation of the full GEF compliant project submission. The project submission has now received endorsement from GEF for the implementation of the project through mobilizing sources of funding for climate change adaptation interventions.

Project Preparation Support to Cambodia (UNDP)

During FY15Q1, USAID ADAPT Asia-Pacific continued technical support to the Royal Cambodian Government and UNDP, providing gender and social inclusion expertise on the preparation of the “*Strengthening the resilience of Cambodian rural livelihoods and subnational government systems to climate risks and variability*” project to be funded by GEF. Building on desk and field research conducted in the last quarter, the project’s national gender specialist has been working with the PPG team to detail the specific gender strategy and gender-responsive project outputs to incorporate into the Project Document. Among other things, the poorest and most vulnerable women, who are often landless, will be the recipients of tangible support to develop climate resilient livelihood capacity that is not agriculture dependent, having a multiplier effect on the community. The project team intends to have the Project Document finalized and submitted to GEF in Q2.

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)

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has been supporting UNDP and the 14 Pacific SIDS countries prepare a Project Information Form (PIF) to access a proposed USD 6-10 million in climate adaptation financing from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF). The PIF is incorporating new innovative CCA activities into Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) and Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) demonstrate sites that are under development in the 14 Pacific SIDS. The project’s consultant has completed a final draft of the PIF, which has been vetted by USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific and UNDP. Consultation on the PIF with countries and institutions of the Pacific region is the next step. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific understands there is ongoing internal discussion within the UNDP system regarding competing proposals for the use of Pacific SCCF funds that will delay the processing of the PIF with GEF for the foreseeable future. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific will continue to monitor the situation.

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

Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA) and USAID Adapt Asia Pacific commenced their collaboration with the City of Valenzuela with a kick-off meeting in early September with the aim of conducting a pre-feasibility study (PFS) to reduce the adverse economic, social, and environmental impacts of flooding in the most affected areas of the city. The CDIA/Adapt Asia-Pacific consulting team submitted its Inception Report in late September, which was discussed with Valenzuela city officials in early October. The CoP and Project Preparation Team Leader visited Manila in early November and met with the consulting team in Valenzuela to review the

status of the preparation of the PFS. Discussion centered on ensuring that the PFS design meets the requirements of potential funding sources for the envisaged flood control project. The CoP returned to Manila in late November to attend a CDIA-organized meeting with the consulting team and prospective funding agencies for the PFS. A couple of conclusions emerged from the consultants' presentations:

- The risk that not all the proposed soft, as well as external (to Valenzuela City), project interventions will be implemented in their entirety, thus potentially undermining the integrity of overall project design; and
- The limited ability of the project to access international climate financing (Adaption Fund, GEF LDCF) and thus the need to better understand and immediately follow up the potential for securing domestic and/or bi- or multilateral donor financing.

CDIA organized a meeting with Valenzuela city officials in early December to discuss the draft Interim Report's preliminary findings, conclusions and recommendations and subsequently released the final version of the Interim Report in late December. PFS preparation has now entered Phase II that involves development of concept designs and preliminary cost estimates. The PFS final report is due the end of February.

Ecosystems based Adaptation in Nepal with UNEP and UN-HABITAT

During the quarter, UNEP indicated that it had engaged a consultant (working on other UNEP projects in Nepal) to scope out the planned ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) for the Kathmandu valley. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific followed up with UNEP on the relationship between this planned project and the earlier EbA work conducted with the project's assistance. The relationship between these projects remains unclear and it seems unlikely that USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific will be requested to take this project any further.

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

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's continues to support India's National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to access the USD 10 million allocated under its accreditation as a national implementing entity (NIE) with the UNFCCC Adaptation Fund (AF). The project received the excellent news that at its October 9-10 Board meeting the AF approved two of the four projects NABARD had submitted. The two AF-approved projects total USD 3.1 million of the total US\$10 million allocated to NABARD. Following AF approval of two Adapt Asia-Pacific-supported project proposals, USAID Adapts Asia-Pacific met with NABARD's climate change team and the new Chief General Manger to take stock of the status and results achieved to date under the November 26, 2013 MoU between USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific and NABARD. Both parties deemed the partnership successful to date, specifically with the recent approval by the AF Board of two Adapt Asia-Pacific-supported NABARD climate change adaptation projects totaling USD 3.21 million and progress toward developing a range of project preparation tools and methodologies. It was agreed to extend the MoU through September 30, 2015 and add the following activities:

- Continue to support NABARD with finalizing the preparation of two ongoing USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific-supported climate change adaptation project proposals with its Executing Entities (EEs) BAIF (US\$0.95 million) and TAAL (US\$1.75 million).
- Complete and trial Adapt Asia-Pacific-supported tools, guides, and methodologies on future NABARD-sponsored climate change adaptation project proposals: (i) checklist for selection of proposals for project concepts; (ii) procedures for project proposal preparation; (iii) project appraisal guide; and (iv) vulnerability assessment methodology.
- Support NABARD and EEs with preparation of 1-2 additional climate change adaptation projects to cover the remaining US\$3.0 million of the AF's US\$10 million allocation. (NABARD is preparing an additional climate change adaptation project with its own resources.)
- Design and organize a 2-3 day workshop for NABARD regional staff on the Adapt Asia-Pacific-supported new tools, guides, and methodologies.
- Provide sector-specific, short-term technical support in project preparation to NABARD and its EEs on an as needed case-by-case basis.

Following the all-day, stock-taking meeting with NABARD senior management where the terms of the amended MoU were agreed, the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific team proceeded to provide three intensive days of hands-on capacity building support to NABARD and two NGO EEs – BAIF (Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation) and TAAL (Towards Action and Learning), including a one-day field visit to one of TAAL's proposed project sites in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh. The USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific team worked closely with NABARD and the staff of the two EEs to improve the quality of the EEs' project proposals, which are under development, for resubmission to AF at the next March 2015 Board meeting. The BAIF and TAAL project proposals address climate smart farming technologies and ecosystem-based adaptation fisheries livelihoods, respectively. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's support aims to strengthen the capacity of these institutions to better prepare higher quality climate change adaptation projects and included a point-by-point review and discussion of previously received AF comments on both proposals and the preparation of action plans with assignment of roles, responsibilities and timelines for responding. The employed hands-on, project-based approach could serve as a model for a scaled up regional program to build capacity of national government institutions in project preparation. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific received TAAL's revised project proposal at the end of the reporting period and was awaiting BAIF's in early January.

Further, to institutionalize its technical support to NABARD, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's two consultants continue to develop three principal tools to strengthen NABARD's project identification and preparation capacity, including: (i) a checklist for the short-listing of EE project concepts submitted to NABARD; (ii) a guide for NABARD to appraise EE project proposals submitted for AF financing; and (iii) a vulnerability assessment (VA) methodology for the identification and prioritization of climate change adaptation project options for subsequent preparation of project proposals. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's consultant submitted the draft VA methodology report, which was reviewed by NABARD and selected EEs. The consultant presented the salient features of the VA methodology at a workshop in Mumbai on December 24, where comments and suggestions were received from the extended NABARD team. A one-day hands-on training workshop is planned for NABARD regional staff on the application of the VA methodology in April.

Finally, a meeting was also convened with the new director of the USAID/India Environment & Energy Office to introduce him to the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific project, provide a rundown on specific India program activities, and debrief him on the week's program with NABARD and its two EEs. He was appreciative of the visit and showed interest in reinstating periodic calls with the RDMA Environment Office.

[Climate Change Adaptation Partnership with ICLEI - India](#)

There was little real progress on this activity during the reporting period. To expedite this activity, the project took the decision to focus, for the time being, solely on the integrated drainage project identified for Mysore, the only bankable project identified in the three cities of Bhubaneswar, Shimla and Mysore. ICLEI was finally able to arrange a meeting with the new Mysore Commissioner in mid-November to brief him on the project proposal and seek his support for organizing the envisaged stakeholders' workshop to vet the project. In the meantime, ICLEI prepared a detailed work plan outlining all activities leading to preparation of a pre-feasibility study (PFS) for the identified Mysore project. At the November meeting, the Commissioner agreed in principle to pursue the project and organize the stakeholder workshop in the second or third week of January 2015. He did request the team to submit a comprehensive proposal describing the project and its costs and benefits to the city, which ICLEI subsequently drafted and submitted to the Commissioner. The Commissioner tentatively suggested January 21 as a date for the workshop, which has not been confirmed and has slipped to either January 30 or 31. The draft agenda has been prepared for the workshop and is being reviewed by the team's partners to ensure it meets all CDIA's requirements for development of the PFS.

[Using ADB's Climate Screening Tools for Investment Projects](#)

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific recognizes the importance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Board of Director's decision to screen all projects for their likely climate impacts and the value of

the rapid assessment software (AWARE) which has been developed to conduct such screening. The main task now is to ensure that all project staff in ADB are capable of conducting the necessary application of the screening tools and where necessary preparing applications for specialized climate adaptation funding to assist in improved project preparation. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has been providing technical assistance to project preparation teams in ADB member countries to screen the project pipelines, access this funding, and prepare improved projects to be submitted for Board approval.

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

Following a consultation workshop in Bangkok in late September 2014, during which details on the site, the V&A methodology and potential adaptation options were shared for feedback from a community of experts, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has continued to work with RECOFTC: The Center for People and Trees, (the implementing partner and institutional home for the demonstration site) in refining the community forestry based adaptation framework, the vulnerability assessment methodology and the assessment of potential funding sources. During this time, the implementation team has been engaging with the relevant local authorities in Nepal (District Forestry Office and District Soil Conservation Office), to work out the details and begin their engagement in the activity's implementation, particularly related to incorporating climate change adaptation into the Community Forestry Operation Plan for Bishnupur, the demonstration site. Bishnupur's vulnerability assessment is expected to be finalized in Q2, at which point a feasibility assessment of adaptation options will be undertaken.

Building Shoreline Resilience to Protect Local Communities in Timor Leste

UNDP and USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific have agreed to partner with the Government of Timor Leste's Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries in the preparation (PPG team) of a USD 7 million shoreline resilience project for Global Environment Fund (GEF) LDCF financing. The project aims to: (i) establish the policy framework and institutional capacity for climate resilient coastal management; (ii) establish mangrove-based livelihoods to incentivize mangrove rehabilitation and protection; and (iii) adopt integrated approaches to coastal adaptation to contribute to protection of coastal populations and productive lands. In defining its overall role in project preparation, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific will explore with UNDP opportunities to develop a parallel, standalone activity directly with Timor Leste national government institutions related to the design and implementation of the present coastal management project.

USAID Adapt Asia Pacific will contribute two international specialists (ecosystem and gender) to the PPG team. UNDP anticipates launching project preparation through an inception workshop in the capital Dili in early Feb 2015. Project preparation is scheduled to run through Aug 2015.

TASK FIVE: OVERARCHING PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

Project Management and Monitoring

Based on the final mid-term evaluation report, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific started the FY 2015 work planning process with a meeting on December 12, 2014. A draft work plan, expected in mid-January, will be shared with USAID RDMA and finalized for submission in mid-February.

During this quarter, 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.

Communication and Outreach

The 9th issue of the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific e-newsletter was published in October 2014. It will include articles on: (i) the outcomes of the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Third Annual Forum; (ii) the outcomes of the USAID/UNDP/ADB Third Economics of Climate Change Adaptation workshop; and (iii) Perspectives from a government beneficiary from Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment on the use of a V&A methodology developed by USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific.

The 9th issue of the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific e-newsletter is accessible via this link:
<http://www.icontact-archive.com/MTSxZdk2o5fRRyZmmDAR0umBWuVzt9C8?w=3>

The 10th issue of the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific e-newsletter is currently being finalized and will be published in January 2015. It will include articles on: (i) the importance of economic analysis in climate change adaptation based on an interview with USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific project beneficiary Dr. Chanakod Chasidpon from the Office of National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), Thailand; (ii) the official launch of the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Online Gender Sourcebook in Bangkok; and (iii) USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's support to NABARD to secure two projects from the Adaptation Fund.

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

APAN Website

During 8-11 December, there was a series of malicious attacks on the APAN site. Spammers registered for accounts and posted unwanted content such as advertisement for movie downloads. While there were occasional spams before, this incident was much more severe. The attacks appeared to come from many countries so there wasn't an efficient way to block them. The webhost also alerted us of the incident as the site consumed an unusual amount of resources. To quickly address the issue, we removed the unwanted content and accounts and shutdown the user registration feature.

3. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

In the second quarter of performance in FY15, 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:

- Develop and identify possible knowledge products to be produced in Y4 in communication with Task 3 and 4 team members and publish one product.
- Continue quarterly newsletter and publish one edition.
- Continue Exchange Series and publish one CoP report on incorporating gender consideration into climate change adaptation project proposals.
- Identify other CoP activities in communication with Task 3 and 4 team members.
- Continue to follow up with IDS on the signing and digitization of the APAN-IDS collaboration MOU.
- Scope out stock taking exercise, which will be discussed and finalized with USAID RDMA, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific, and UNEP ROAP.
- Participate in the Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific 2015 Congress hosted by Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and organized by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability to be held on February 11-13, 2015 in Bangkok.
- Explore appropriate training opportunities with APAN and its regional and thematic nodes. Continue supporting competitive training program for government officials.
- Continue support on Economics of Climate Change Adaptation Program in Asia.
- Continue support on Pacific Cost-Benefit Analysis initiative, including cost-sharing with UNDP of Program Coordinator's time.
- Take a decision on continued capacity building support to the DoF of the Philippines.
- Scope out additional support to ICCTF for project preparation.
- Support PIFS/UNDP on Tonga Climate Finance Assessment.
- Finalize Urban Climate Change Adaptation Course Development and plan for its trialing.
- Monitoring of government officials who have received USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific training support and establish and maintain networks of course graduates for continued sharing of information.
- Scope out and prepare a concept note for a new regional capacity building program for Asia based on USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's experience and lesson learned to date with

project preparation. Conduct stakeholder workshop in Mysore and organize the development of a pre-feasibility study for an integrated drainage project identified for Mysore.

- Continue support to NABARD, India, in the finalization of a vulnerability assessment tool and the preparation of climate adaptation projects.
- Provide support to CDIA PFS team in Valenzuela City, Metro Manila, on preparing a flood risk management project.
- Continue support for CF-CCA for women-based community forestry partnership.
- Support Government of Timor Leste and UNDP in project preparation on Building Shoreline Resilience to Protect Local Communities.
- Explore opportunity for supporting UNDP with project preparation on Implementation of Arafura and Timor Seas Strategic Action Programs.
- Prepare annual and quarterly reports.
- Continue collection of data for PPR report.
- Prepare 2015 Work Plan and Performance Management Plan.