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

ANNUAL REPORT FY2015

OCTOBER 1, 2014 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2015



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ANNUAL REPORT FY2015
OCTOBER 1, 2014 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

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As climate change reduces the availability of fresh water, it now takes women up to six hours to fetch water in Oeseli, district Rote Ndao, province Nusa Tenggara Timur, Indonesia.

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ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
AF	Adaptation Fund
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology
APAN	Asia Pacific Adaptation Network
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
CANSA	Climate Action Network South Asia
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CI	Conservation International
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
CPEIR	Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review
CROP	Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific
DO	Development Objective
DOF	Department of Finance
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GCF	Green Climate Fund
EU	European Union
EWC	East-West Center
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GIZ	German International Cooperation Agency
IGES	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
ICCTF	Indonesia Climate Change Trust Fund
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
IR	Intermediate Result
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
KM	Knowledge Management
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LOC	Letter of Cooperation
MDBs	Multilateral Development Banks
MIS	Management Information System
MOEJ	Ministry of Environment of Japan
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding

M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NIE	National Implementing Entity
OCCC	Office of Climate Change Coordination
ONEP	Office of Natural Environmental Policy and Planning
P-CBA	Pacific – Cost Benefit Analysis
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PPCR	Pilot Project on Climate Resistance
PMP	Performance Management Plan
RDMA	Regional Development Mission for Asia
REO	Regional Environmental Office of RDMA
RMI	Republic of Marshall Islands
RTG	Royal Thai Government
RTSM	Regional Technical Support Mechanism
SEI	Stockholm Environment Institute
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TA	Technical Assistance
TICA	Thailand International Cooperation Agency
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USP	University of South Pacific
WRI	World Resources Institute

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under USAID contract number 486-C-11-00005, AECOM International Development (AECOM) is implementing the USAID Climate Change Adaptation Project Preparation Facility for Asia and the Pacific (USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific) to support the Regional Environment Office (REO) of the USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA). The project has five tasks:

- Task 1: Knowledge Sharing Platform;
- Task 2: Annual Forum;
- Task 3: Climate Change Adaptation Capacity Building;
- Task 4: Technical Assistance in Preparing Funding Proposals; and
- Task 5: Overarching Program Management and Coordination.

This annual report provides a summary of the status of project activities and achievements against key project objectives and annual performance targets. Highlights of USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's achievements in FY2015 include:

1. Supported preparation of seven bankable climate change adaptation project proposals;
2. Leveraged approximately an additional US\$128 million investment in climate change adaptation work in the target countries from international development partners;
3. Benefitted almost 117,000 people through facilitated climate change adaptation projects;
4. Improved institutional capacity of ten government institutes in Asia and Pacific to better respond to the climate change adaptation needs of the region;
5. Trained more than 215 government officials in climate change finance and adaptation issues;
6. Strengthened the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network's (APAN) core functions to serve as regional platform for climate change adaptation knowledge sharing; and
7. Supported 15 government officials to pursue climate change adaptation training courses through the project's government training support program.



A household in a coastal community that will benefit from the Cambodia Rural Livelihoods for which USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific provided design support. In FY2015 USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific supported the preparation of seven CCA project proposals, benefitting almost 117,000 people and leveraging US\$128 million in CCA investments across Asia-Pacific.

Specific key outputs for USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific in FY2015 are described below.

TASK 1: KNOWLEDGE SHARING PLATFORM

Under Task 1, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific contributed broadly to the Asia-Pacific region's climate change adaptation community, including government officials, by producing and disseminating project-based knowledge products that added to the existing body of knowledge on climate change adaptation financing.

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific also strengthened the Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network's (APAN) regional knowledge platform by supporting its web-based knowledge management activities. The strengthened APAN regional knowledge sharing platform can continue to serve as a potential pillar for USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's sustainability, as APAN's existing capabilities and networks can continue to be leveraged for the project. In FY2015 key achievements of the project included:

- Enhanced APAN's web-based knowledge sharing capacity and outreach through web portal upgrading and maintenance, which contributed to APAN's overall sustainability.
- Implemented APAN's Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute of Development Studies' Eldis program—a leading online international development information service provider—to harmonize and improve accessibility of climate change adaptation financing and other related information.
- Published and disseminated knowledge products under the project's own 'Adaptation Finance Knowledge Series' in which content was generated from on-the-ground experiences from the project, all of which were disseminated via the APAN web portal.
- Updated the Compendium of Adaptation Funds on the project website to reflect latest figures and approval processes, providing information that is useful for country officials.
- Conducted a total of seven online Community of Practice activities among USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific experts, development partners, and country officials, in the form of email exchange discussions and live online chats on topical adaptation financing issues.
- Produced four newsletters containing 12 features/news articles on the project's activities that were distributed to project beneficiaries.

TASK 2: ANNUAL FORUM

As agreed with USAID RDMA, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific did not host an annual forum in FY2015. Instead, the project focused on supporting events hosted by APAN's partner organizations. In Q2 FY2015, the project contributed to two plenary sessions at the Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific 2015 Congress organized by ICLEI-South Asia and hosted by the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, held in Bangkok, Thailand. In Q4 FY2015 USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific contributed to a session at a Pacific Regional Workshop organized by the Green Climate Fund and hosted by Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), APAN's node for the Pacific, in Nadi, Fiji.

TASK 3: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CAPACITY BUILDING

In FY2015, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific built on established relationships, as well as forged new partnerships, in the implementation of its capacity building program. The project has continued to explore a variety of avenues to build the capacity of governments in Asia-Pacific to access climate change adaptation finance, including:

- Supported 15 government officials through the project's government training support program;
- Conducted a mini-workshop of the Economics of Climate Change Adaptation (ECCA) training program with participation from three countries that are the most advanced in their data analysis, and developing the initial draft of the country and regional reports;
- Initiated and supported the WACC activity as a regional partnership to build capacity of government agencies for conducting vulnerability assessments;

- Collaborated with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), SPREP, University of the South Pacific (USP) and other partners through the provision of a Regional Pacific Cost Benefit Analysis (P-CBA) Coordinator, who oversaw four in-country trainings and the development of training materials;
- Carried out pilot-testing of the Urban Climate Change and Resilience (UCCAR) training with three trainings in Indonesia and Philippines; and
- Assisted the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to improve its capacity in terms of: (i) prioritizing and shortlisting CCA proposals, undertaking vulnerability assessments, and preparing and appraising CCA projects for the Adaptation Fund. Guidelines developed by USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific are being used by NABARD's training institute in Lucknow for developing in-house staff capacity; and (ii) providing quality control and feedback for five NABARD Executing Entities (EEs) in the preparation of projects for Adaptation Fund (AF) financing. Also assisted these five EEs in understanding the requirements of AF project preparation templates and preparing project proposals and project concepts for submission to AF. During FY 2015, three project proposals were approved by the AF Board.

TASK 4: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN PREPARING FUNDING PROPOSALS

Consistent with the overall strategy for USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific, the project is gradually investing more time and resources in working directly with governments (for example, in Thailand, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Philippines, and the Pacific). At the same time, the project has maintained good relations with key partners like UNDP and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), while building up strong connections with the Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA) and ICLEI. In FY2015 the project was very successful in supporting the preparation of climate change adaptation project proposals including:

- Leveraged \$128 million in funding for climate change adaptation projects from development partners, governments, and climate change adaptation funds;
- Supported preparation of seven climate change adaptation project proposals for funding through international climate change funds;
- Supported NABARD and associated EEs in preparing three approved projects and two projects in the pipeline for the AF financing and developing a set of tools to assist in identifying, prioritizing and appraising bankable projects;
- Supported the Indonesia Climate Change Trust Fund (ICCTF) through technical assistance and capacity building to shortlist climate change project proposals and build a project pipeline for grant funding, including a recent grant of \$5 million from USAID/Indonesia;
- Commenced support to small island developing states in the Pacific to build pipelines and develop project proposals for funding by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), in collaboration with SPREP;
- Assisted with carrying out a climate finance assessment for the Kingdom of Tonga, in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) in the Pacific;
- Identified strategic opportunities to support project preparation activities in partnership with UNDP in Indonesia and Timor Leste; and
- Supported SPREP with preparation of an AF project proposal for the Federated States of Micronesia.

TASK 5: OVERARCHING PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific continued its effective working relationships with USAID bilateral missions and international development partners, building synergies with other donors and U.S. Government programs and avoiding duplication of activities at the country and regional levels. In coordination with USAID RDMA, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific made in-person briefings and coordination meetings during FY2015 with USAID missions in India, Indonesia, Philippines, and Timor Leste and U.S. Embassies in Suva, Fiji, and Apia, Samoa, where excellent working

relationships have been nurtured over the life of the project. In addition, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific was particularly successful during FY2015 in partnering with:

- UNDP on project preparation and capacity building initiatives in target countries, yielding preparation of climate change adaptation projects in Timor Leste and the regional project in Indonesia and Timor Leste targeting the Timor and Arafura Seas;
- ADB and CDIA in the drafting of the terms of reference for the preparation of the pre-feasibility study (PFS) for the Mysuru, India Integrated Storm Water Drainage project that will likely lead to ADB funding the project;
- UNDP on the Economics of Climate Change Adaptation regional capacity building program; and
- UNDP, GIZ, USP, PIFS, SPC, and SPREP in the Pacific to implement a Pacific-Cost-Benefit Analysis (P-CBA) program to strengthen government officials' capacity to carry out cost-benefit analysis of projects to enhance the effectiveness of climate investment.

FY2015 PMP RESULTS

USAID Adapt-Asia-Pacific achieved or exceeded most targets under the contract's PMP for FY2015 as presented in Table 1. A detailed description of indicator results is presented in the subsequent sections of this report

Table 1: FY2015 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE TARGETS AND RESULTS
Program Element 4.8.2. Clean Productive Environment

PMP Indicators		FY 2015 ANNUAL Targets	FY 2015 RESULTS
IR 1.1	Person hours of training completed in climate change supported by USG assistance/Number of people trained in climate change	4,000/150	5,213/215
IR 1.2	Number of institutions with improved capacity to address climate change issues as a result of USG assistance	10	10
IR 2.1	Number of climate change adaptation projects with facilitated access to finance	7	7
IR 2.2	Number of facilitated projects with a specific gender component	2	1
IR 2.3	Number of people benefiting from climate change adaptation project approved or in the pipeline as a result of USG assistance	100,000	116,784
IR 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	\$128,006,822
IR 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	3
IR 2.6	Amount of funds in U.S. dollars from non-USAID sources mobilized and applied to support project preparation facility objectives	\$250,000	\$319,146
IR 3.1	Number of regional environmental platforms created or strengthened	1	1

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Based in Bangkok, Thailand, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA) supports regional activities that address regional and transnational development and environment priorities, and provides value-added support to USAID bilateral missions. To support achievement of the RDMA's Development Objective of "Improved response to environmental challenges in Asia", RDMA awarded a technical support services contract to AECOM to implement the Climate Change Adaptation Project Preparation Facility for Asia and the Pacific, hereinafter referred to as the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific project. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific addresses capacity and information needs of eligible governments in the Asia and Pacific Islands regions in accessing climate change adaptation funds and accelerating investments in initiatives that increase resilience to the negative impacts of climate change.

During the first four years of the project's operation, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has made significant progress toward achievement of its principal objective of establishing a fully functional and self-sustaining adaptation project preparation facility. The project supported preparation of specific CCA proposals, primarily through building strategic partnerships with multilateral and regional project preparation institutions and strengthening key national and project preparation institutions in the Asia and Pacific regions. The project is developing and implementing several major capacity building initiatives targeted at national and sub-national governments in various aspects of the preparation and financing of climate change adaptation projects. It has also identified and is supporting a regional knowledge sharing platform to share project preparation knowledge products, and is being recognized as a key USG project preparation facility by key stakeholders in the region.

During FY2015, USAID ADAPT Asia-Pacific successfully transitioned to mostly working directly with national governments. Engagements with multilateral intermediaries were more strategic where the cooperation led to entry points to work directly with national governments. The transition to working directly with national governments supports the project's longer-term goal of building sustainable capacity within national governments for CCA project preparation and access to relevant financing.

In FY2015, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has progressed toward achieving its principal objective of establishing an adaptation project preparation facility with a multifaceted approach, including:

- Dedicated institutional arrangement(s) to support governments prepare specific projects;
- Strengthened key national and project preparation and capacity building institutions in the region;
- Strategic partnerships with multilateral and regional institutions; and
- Strengthened regional knowledge management platform, APAN.

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific, as a self-sustaining project preparation facility, implies effective integration of the two pillars of the project namely capacity building and project preparation. While for planning purposes, the project describes capacity building and project preparation activities separately, both are linked and fall along a continuum of programmatic technical assistance to the target countries that at points in time will evolve from project preparation to capacity building and vice versa.

TASK 1: REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE SHARING PLATFORM

The support to APAN in FY2015 focused on long-term sustainability of the regional platform through a wide range of web-based knowledge management activities. Over the years APAN has become a key regional platform for knowledge sharing on climate change adaptation and a strengthened APAN can serve as a viable pillar for the project’s sustainability. Changes in its funding sources and ongoing discussions about its institutional framework may somewhat modify APAN’s functions. However, APAN will continue to serve the climate change adaptation community through its wide resources, its regional and thematic nodes, and its partnerships with other networks. The key achievements for FY2015 include:

- Enhanced APAN’s web-based knowledge sharing capacity and outreach through regular maintenance and updating of the APAN web portal with the latest information on climate change adaptation and finance. The APAN website was also revamped and launched as a beta test website (<http://beta.asiapacificadapt.net/>) to support long-term sustainability of the platform.

The screenshot displays the APAN website interface. At the top left is the APAN logo with the tagline 'Asia Pacific ADAPTATION NETWORK | Mobilising Knowledge and Building Capacities for Climate Resilience'. To the right is a search bar and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and RSS. Below the header is a navigation menu with categories: ABOUT APAN, THEMES, REGIONS, NEWS, EVENTS, RESOURCES, COMMUNITY, and CONTRIBUTE. The main content area features a large image of a busy street with many people on bicycles, overlaid with a green box containing the headline 'New Manual Helps Cities Deliver Climate Resilience Training' and a brief description of USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's training efforts. Below this are three 'HIGHLIGHTS' sections: a feature article 'Online Sourcebook: Integrating Gender into Climate Change Adaptation Proposals', a resource 'Shortlisting Climate Change Adaptation Projects', and another resource 'Empowering the Poor in a Changing Climate: Experiences from UNDP Supported Initiatives on Adaptation'. To the right of these highlights is an orange 'YOUR FEEDBACK' box and a 'SUBSCRIBE TO OUR E-COMMUNIQUE' form. At the bottom, there are sections for 'PUBLICATIONS' and 'NEWS', and a 'CONNECT WITH APAN' box with social media icons.

A screenshot of the upgraded APAN beta test website. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is supporting the upgrades to make the web portal more user friendly, support greater integration with other networks, and enhanced capabilities for long-term sustainability of the regional platform.

- Implemented APAN’s Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute of Development Studies’ Eldis program, a leading online international development information service provider. The partnership harmonizes content across the two platforms and improves accessibility of climate change adaptation financing and other related information.
- Published and disseminated knowledge products under the newly launched *Adaptation Finance Knowledge Series*. The series is based on content developed from on-the-ground project experiences and in close consultation with the capacity building and project preparation components of USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific. The knowledge products were all disseminated via the APAN web portal to expand outreach and sustain the project’s knowledge and outcomes.
- Updated the *Compendium of Adaptation Funds* on the project website and redesigned the compendium as a paper publication - *Quick Guide to Climate Adaptation Change Funds*. The update reflects the latest figures and approval processes, providing key facts about individual funds, such as eligibility criteria, target areas, and mechanisms that will ultimately help government officials identify appropriate sources of financing for CCA projects.
- Conducted a total of six (6) online Community of Practice activities among USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific experts, development partners, and country officials in the form of email-based exchange discussions and ‘live’ online chat sessions. Topics covered adaptation financing issues, including mainstreaming gender into adaptation projects and financing urban adaptation.
- Produced four (4) newsletters containing 12 features/news articles on the project’s activities, including one-on-one interviews with government officials from the Marshall Islands, Philippines, Thailand and Timor Leste that were distributed to project partners and beneficiaries.

1.1 STRENGTHENING KNOWLEDGE PLATFORMS AND NETWORKS

Significant progress was made in FY2015 to strengthen APAN’s regional knowledge sharing platform, particularly its web portal functions. With the longer-term objective of sustaining project-supported activities, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific worked to improve the capacity of APAN’s knowledge management activities and facilitated the production and dissemination of a number of project-based knowledge products. Some of the key activities are described below.

COLLABORATION WITH CLIMATE CHANGE KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific facilitated collaboration between the APAN web portal and the Institute of Development Studies’ Eldis program—a leading online international development information service provider. In Q1FY2015, the collaboration was formalized with a signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between APAN and the Institute of Development Studies to fulfill the complementary objectives of harmonizing information across the two platforms and improving accessibility of information on climate change adaptation financing and other related topics on the APAN web portal.

INTEGRATED KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM WEBSITE FOR APAN AND USAID ADAPT ASIA-PACIFIC

The cornerstone of APAN’s knowledge sharing platform is the APAN web portal. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has been supporting improvements to the portal throughout the course of the project. Its redesign and relaunch significantly increased the volume of traffic and page views. In FY2015, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific successfully completed another round of improvements to the web portal by revamping it and launching a beta test website (<http://beta.asiapacificadapt.net/>), which will enhance the long-term sustainability of the APAN platform. The upgraded APAN web portal also incorporates key components of APAN’s Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute of Development Studies’ Eldis program.

All USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific knowledge products, including the Community of Practice/Exchange Series summary reports, are also hosted on the APAN web portal and fully integrated into the APAN platform. Accordingly, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific’s knowledge products are included under the APAN web portal’s adaptation finance thematic area, one of the platform’s 14 thematic focus areas, increasing the overall knowledge base of the portal.

Based on Google Analytics reports, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific successfully increased the number of users on its website from an annual total of 6,946 in FY2014 to 9,190 in FY2015 or a 32% increase as shown in Table 2 below. The number of users of APAN’s regional knowledge sharing platform, from which USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific’s knowledge products have also been disseminated, reached 28,539 in FY2015, a 20% increase from FY2014’s 23,662. On a quarterly basis, the number of visits to the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific website remained fairly constant in FY2015 as shown below in Table 2, while the number of visits to the APAN web portal dipped slightly after a significant spike in Q1FY2015 due to the APAN Forum.

Table 2: USAID ADAPT ASIA-PACIFIC AND APAN WEBSITE STATISTICS

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Website (www.adaptasiapacific.org)			
Period	Visits	Unique Visitors	Page views
Q1FY2014	1,864	1,377	4,558
Q2FY2014	2,177	1,643	5,161
Q3FY2014	2,674	1,992	5,635
Q4FY2014	3,389	2,205	8,074
Q1FY2015	2,996	2,190	6,211
Q2FY2015	3,315	2,456	6,119
Q3FY2015	3,558	2,444	6,440
Q4FY2015	3,356	2,417	6,387
APAN Web Portal (www.asiapacificadapt.net)			
Q1FY2014	7,798	5,854	21,177
Q2FY2014	7,138	5,718	17,243
Q3FY2014	7,533	5,918	17,699
Q4FY2014	9,744	6,817	32,952
Q1FY2015	17,063	14,996	27,957
Q2FY2015	6,980	5,500	15,887
Q3FY2015	5,931	4,691	13,675
Q4FY2015	5,805	3,856	13,250

USAID ADAPT ASIA-PACIFIC SUPPORTED APAN COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

In FY2015, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific continued to engage the participants of the Annual Forum and other events/workshops, Government Training Support Program (GTSP), and other key stakeholders to strengthen the growing Community of Practice (CoP) through the *APAN Exchange Series*. Subscribers to the *Exchange Series* more than doubled from 258 in March 2014 to 786 in October 2015. They include both government officials and development partners in Asia-Pacific. The number of actual responses has also tripled from 6 to 18 unique contributions, per discussion, at its peak.

Participant Reaction to the CoP Activities

“These events [USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Third Annual Forum and APAN Exchange Series] really open up your eyes to the idea that you’re not alone. I didn’t realize that there are so many people who really care, and it makes me excited to think that if I keep going at this, people might pay more attention to local governments.”

Alfredo M. Coro, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Del Carmen, Philippines

<http://www.adaptasiapacific.org/news/life-frontlines-climate-change#sthash.rhnFu85g.dpuf>

In FY2015, six CoP activities were conducted – four email exchanges and two ‘live’ online chats – on GCF capitalization, mainstreaming gender into adaptation projects, financing urban adaptation, and

prioritizing adaptation activities (<http://adaptasiapacific.org/tags/exchange-series>). The summaries of all conducted CoP activities were published and uploaded on both the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific and APAN websites.

A total of 54 unique written CoP responses have been received in FY2015, with many coming from national and local government officials in Bangladesh, India, Marshall Islands, Philippines, Timor Leste, Vietnam, and others. The responses were also very thoughtful highlighting key issues faced by countries in designing and implementing adaptation programs. For example, Indonesia’s national planning agency focused on difficulties in channeling donor funding to local governments due to restrictive regulations. India’s NABARD, on the other hand, highlighted the desire to dedicate a specific budget for gender-related work.

USAID ADAPT ASIA-PACIFIC NEWSLETTERS

In a sustained effort to continually inform USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific stakeholders, 12 feature/news stories were written highlighting the project’s capacity building and project preparation activities. These stories included interviews with government officials from the Republic of Marshall Islands’ Ministry of Finance; Timor Leste’s Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; Thailand’s Office of National Economic and Social Development Board; and the Philippines’s Municipality of Del Carmen.

The stories were compiled into four (4) separate, revamped newsletters (<http://adaptasiapacific.org/activities/quarterly-newsletters>) and distributed to all USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific stakeholders. The newsletters were also shared with widely circulated Climate-L mailing list subscribers. The published articles include:

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Newsletter – January 2015 edition (<http://www.icontact-archive.com/MTSxZdk2o5fRRvZmmDAR0iJfJKiguJul?w=3>)

1. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific: It Takes Time and Effort to Get Money for Climate Change
2. Learning to Assess the Economic Value of Climate Change Adaptation
3. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific launches online gender sourcebook, supporting women’s empowerment in Asia

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Newsletter – April 2015 edition (http://www.icontact-archive.com/MTSxZdk2o5fRRvZmmDAR0p_tL-BYz8PL?w=4)

4. In the Marshall Islands, everything is climate change
5. Bringing mangroves back as defenders of climate change impacts
6. Change values, structures, and power relations to ensure gender equality



USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific e-Newsletter
Issue 10 | January 2015

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It Takes Time and Effort to get Money for Climate Change
Learn how USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is helping NABARD access US\$3.2 million and more from the Adaptation Fund to finance projects that will restore degraded mangrove wetlands, protect the livelihoods of small farmers, and increase the resilience of over 22,000 people living in India.
[Read more](#)

The USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific e-Newsletter highlights the project’s latest work in climate change adaptation financing in Asia and the Pacific.



Highlights

Funds Compendium
Includes major climate

The quarterly newsletters published by USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific highlight the key achievements of the project over the previous quarter.

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Newsletter – July 2015 edition (<http://www.icontact-archive.com/MTSxZdk2o5fRRyZmmDAR0trKgrAAfj1?w=4>)

7. Life on the frontlines of climate change
8. New hands-on course helps cities in Asia-Pacific turn strategies into bankable adaptation projects
9. To finance local communities, countries need to ease up internal money flows – climate experts

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Newsletter – September 2015 edition (<http://www.icontact-archive.com/MTSxZdk2o5fRRyZmmDAR0nZjmQX6vZG7?w=4>)

10. USAID-supported study on flood control helps city officials gear up for climate investments
11. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific boosts support to the Pacific, builds country readiness for direct access
12. To better implement adaptation, countries need to improve cross-institutional cooperation – APAN community

1.2 PUBLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS, GUIDELINES, TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES

In FY2015, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific continued to capture and share knowledge and experience in improving access to climate finance and preparing climate change adaptation projects. This was done via two channels: (a) the continuing development and adoption of tools and guidelines that expand on USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific-developed methodologies; and (b) the launch of USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's *Adaptation Finance Knowledge Series*, representing the amalgamation of the project's experiences published through a series of discussion papers, guides and recommendations for action that are disseminated widely throughout the APAN community.

In FY2015, the following tools have been developed, launched, piloted or adopted to further the project's objective of building capacity for CCA project preparation:

Online Sourcebook for Integrating Gender into Climate Change Adaptation Proposals (<http://asiapacificadapt.net/gender-sourcebook/>)

The Sourcebook is continually hosted and maintained on the APAN web portal, and was officially launched at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand during Q1FY2015. The launch drew over 35 Bangkok-based participants from international development organizations, Thai government agencies, NGOs, research institutes, and the general public. Since then, the Sourcebook is being piloted on three full-scale projects designed in collaboration with UNDP for funding from the GEF. Initial feedback indicates that the thorough Sourcebook is a useful and effective tool for truly considering and integrating gender-responsive climate change adaptation throughout every aspect of project design.

Urban Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience (UCCAR) - A Training Manual

(<http://www.adaptasiapacific.org/content/urban-climate-change-adaptation-and-resilience-%E2%80%93-training-manual>)

This training manual is part of the project's capacity building activities through the Urban Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience (UCCAR) training course. It aims to improve climate change knowledge among mid- to senior-level managers working in urban and infrastructure planning and,



*Urban Climate Change
Adaptation and Resilience
A Training Manual*



***The UCCAR training manual
published in FY2015***

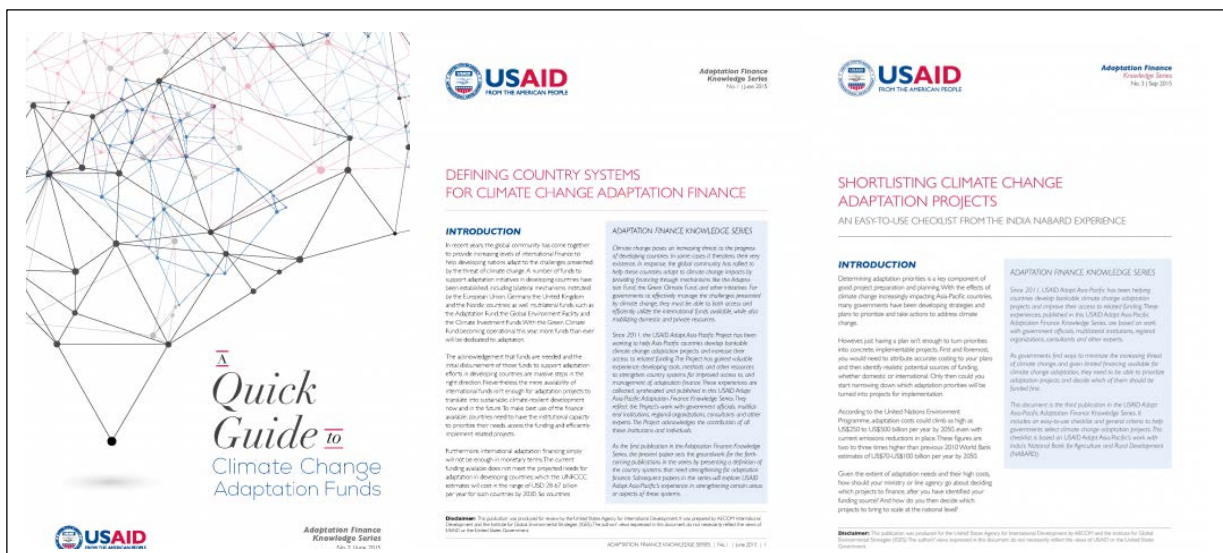
in turn, help them design better climate change adaptation projects. The manual and other course materials were redesigned into print-friendly documents and uploaded onto the APAN web portal and the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific website. They are freely available to government agencies and training institutions in Asia-Pacific looking to develop and deliver urban climate change adaptation project development and finance training.

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific’s Project Preparation Methodology

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has developed a ‘working’ project preparation methodology based on the last several years of experience designing CCA projects. This methodology is a logical combination of a climate change vulnerability assessment and procedure for identification of adaptation options within the project design cycle. It has been adapted for use on several Task 4 activities. During FY2015, this methodology was used to develop a number of tools that are being trialed by India’s National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), including a Checklist for Shortlisting Adaptation Projects for Financing, a Vulnerability Assessment Tool, and a Guideline for Adaptation Project Preparation. These publications are being used by NABARD as training tools at its Lucknow training center.

Also during FY2015, the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific project preparation methodology was adapted for use in the community forestry context in collaboration with RECOFTC - The Center for People and Trees. The adapted methodology applies vulnerability assessment to the community forestry landscape, with a particular focus on gender roles and unique contributions of women and men, to identify adaptation options that are community forest-centric. The adapted methodology was implemented in Bishnupur community in partnership with a women’s Community Forestry User Group (CFUG), identifying several smaller projects that will be implemented in FY2016 with financial and other support from local and district government institutions. The community forestry landscape-based methodology will be developed into a practitioner’s guide in FY2016.

These tools and methods will be further supported and promoted throughout FY2016. The Economics of Climate Change Adaptation (ECCA) toolkit, a draft of which was developed in FY2014, will also be revised and published in FY2016.



The Adaptation Finance Knowledge Series published by USAID Adapt-Asia Pacific in FY2015. The project focused on capturing lessons and best practices from activities in Task 3 and Task 4 to document and disseminate the project’s experiences to the wider CCA community.

In FY2015, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific also launched the *Adaptation Finance Knowledge Series* (<http://adaptasiapacific.org/knowledge-series>), to share other specific on-the-ground experiences and knowledge acquired throughout the life of the project on improving access to adaptation finance through the preparation of technically sound, socially inclusive and – importantly – bankable climate change adaptation projects. FY2015 saw the wide dissemination of the following initial publications in the Series:

1. **Defining Country Systems for Climate Change Adaptation Finance** (<http://adaptasiapacific.org/library/defining-country-systems-cca-finance>): The paper presents a practical definition to the term “country systems” and sets the groundwork for forthcoming publications in the Series. The paper is based on a background note originally developed for the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific Third Annual Forum, held in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme on September 15-16, 2014 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. It presents a coherent way of practically understanding what country systems are and the myriad of ways they can be strengthened. The *Adaptation Finance Knowledge Series* sets out to provide insight into how USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has strengthened many of those systems through project activities.
2. **A Quick Guide to Climate Adaptation Change Funds** (<http://adaptasiapacific.org/library/quick-guide-climate-adaptation-change-funds>): The guide is an easy-to-follow collection of 10 multilateral and bilateral climate funds and initiatives currently available for financing adaptation activities in developing countries. The guide provides to government officials key facts about individual funds and approval processes. It also includes practical tips from USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific on how to get adaptation projects funded.
3. **Shortlisting Climate Change Adaptation Projects** (<http://adaptasiapacific.org/library/shortlisting-climate-change-adaptation-projects>): This document shares an example from Task 4’s experience working with India’s NABARD (mentioned above) to design an easy-to-use tool – or checklist – for selecting projects to be financed by the Adaptation Fund. This example is made accessible, and transferable, to a wide range of government agencies in Asia-Pacific, especially those seeking to determine which adaptation priorities to turn into full project proposals.

These knowledge products have been included in, and distributed via, the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific newsletters, as well as the APAN e-Communique – the network’s monthly newsletter – reaching adaptation practitioners and subscribers across Asia and the Pacific. A landing page to host the Series has also been developed on the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific website (<http://adaptasiapacific.org/knowledge-series>) in an improved indexed and searchable manner.

More publications are planned for the Series in FY2016, including a paper on the Pacific Cost-Benefit Analysis (P-CBA) training and general Guidelines for Climate Change Adaptation Project Preparation.

1.3 STOCK TAKING OF SUPPORT TO APAN AND WAY FORWARD

One of the objectives under Task 1 in FY2015 was to reinvigorate the institutional partnership between USAID and APAN with a view to build long-term sustainability of APAN and the assistance USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has provided to APAN over the life of the project. In line with the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation, the Stock Taking activity was proposed to inventory the project’s support to APAN and measure its effectiveness to build sustainable capacity of APAN. Based on this inventory, a dialogue between the key stakeholders of APAN and USAID RDMA was to be facilitated with the aim of strengthening the ongoing partnership, seeking further avenues of cooperation, and agreeing on an action plan for the project’s support to APAN over FY2015 and FY2016. Due to shifting priorities and changes in funding for APAN in FY2015, the proposed Stock Taking exercise was not undertaken.

Following discussions between RDMA and the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ), on how to continue support for APAN, RDMA initiated a meeting with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to follow up on possible actions after the last APAN Steering Committee held in October 2014. RDMA solicited feedback from UNEP regarding USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific’s support to APAN thus far and recommendations for changes in FY2016. Representatives from UNEP expressed overall satisfaction with the support from USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific and requested that the support continue through the life of the project.

A key discussion point at the meeting was with regard to the changes in core funding for APAN from MOEJ. MOEJ has significantly modified its support to APAN, refocusing its funding to APAN hubs and nodes. While UNEP agreed that this change would require APAN to reconsider some of its core operations and priorities, it did not foresee any major impact on the functioning of APAN itself. In the short term UNEP will focus on fundraising to fill the gaps due to the changes in MOEJ funding. Without a full commitment from UNEP, it is unlikely that the proposed Stock Taking activity would have a discernible impact on APAN or its long-term sustainability. As a result of UNEP’s shifting priorities, RDMA and USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific agreed to not pursue further the stock taking activity at this time. However, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific will make one final attempt in FY2016 to engage with APAN with the aim that the day-to-day services provided and the working relationship established provide some assurance that APAN will play an envisaged future role as a key sustainability pillar of USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific.

1.4 INDICATOR RESULTS SUMMARY

As detailed in Table 3 below, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific met the performance target for the USAID custom indicator – number of regional environmental platforms created or strengthened. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific met targets under this indicator by improving knowledge production, management and sharing capacity of APAN during the reporting period.

Table 3: FY2015 KNOWLEDGE SHARING PLATFORM INDICATORS RESULTS

PROGRAM ELEMENT 4.8.2. CLEAN PRODUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT			
PMP INDICATORS		FY2015 TARGETS	TASK 1 CONTRIBUTION
IR 3.1	Number of regional environmental platforms created or strengthened	1	1

TASK 2: USAID ADAPT ASIA-PACIFIC ANNUAL FORUM

In FY2015, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific agreed with USAID RDMA to not host an annual forum. The decision was based on recommendations from the project’s mid-term evaluation that emphasized the need to review the overall strategy of organizing the annual forum. The recommendations also highlighted the need to generate ‘value for money’ and more long-term capacity building impact. In response to the mid-term evaluation, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific in FY2015 focused on supporting selected events that were hosted by APAN’s partner organizations with the aim of providing capacity building and fostering potential partnerships.

2.1 SUPPORTING RESILIENT CITIES ASIA-APCIFIC 2015

In Q2FY2015 supported ICLEI Southeast Asia (APAN’s node for Southeast Asia), by participating in two plenary sessions in the Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific 2015 Congress hosted by the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, organized by ICLEI, and held in Bangkok, Thailand. Key achievements included:

- Showcased the project’s knowledge leadership on financing urban resilience and on incorporating gender considerations in climate change adaptation planning to over 300 city-level officials and development partners; and
- Funded training of three participants—two from Marshall Islands and one from Vanuatu—providing 51 hours of training.



Participants at the Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific 2015 Congress. Organized by ICLEI and hosted by the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority, the Congress provided a platform for urban resilience and climate change adaptation dialogue to forge partnerships and identify solutions for cities in Asia-Pacific. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific facilitated the participation of Pacific island countries at the event as well as provided resource persons at two plenary sessions. (Photo Credit – ICLEI)

2.2 SUPPORTING SPREP AND GCF WORKSHOP

In Q4 FY2015 USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific contributed to a session at a Pacific Regional Workshop organized by the Green Climate Fund and hosted by SPREP (APAN's node for the Pacific) in Nadi, Fiji. As part of the July 27-29 workshop, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific supported SPREP in its new role as a Regional Implementing Entity (RIE) for GCF in facilitating access to GCF funds by its member countries.

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific organized bilateral meetings with 18 participants from Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Island, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu to provide them with better understanding of GCF requirements. Further USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific offered support to each of the countries for developing climate change adaptation project proposals to access GCF financing.

2.3 INDICATOR RESULTS SUMMARY

The activities implemented under Task 2 contributed to the project's overall targets for both CCA training hours (IR.1.1) and non-USAID funds mobilized for project activities (IR.2.6). The number of person hours of training achieved and amount of funds mobilized for FY2015 were lower than targets mainly because the project did not host an annual forum in FY 2015 following the recommendation of the mid-term evaluation. Instead of an annual forum, the project supported two regional events hosted by APAN's sub-regional nodes that were directly relevant and contributed to the capacity building objectives of the project. Although the project did not meet the individual targets for Task 2, it is important to note that overall the project exceeded targets for both these indicators in FY2015.

Table 4: FY2015 ANNUAL FORUM INDICATORS RESULTS

PROGRAM ELEMENT 4.8.2. CLEAN PRODUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT			
PMP INDICATORS		FY2015 TARGETS	TASK 2 CONTRIBUTION
IR 1.1	Person hours of training completed in climate change supported by USG assistance/Number of people trained in climate change	400/30	65/21
IR 2.6	Amount of funds in U.S. dollars from non-USAID sources mobilized and applied to support project preparation facility objectives	\$25,000	\$750

TASK 3: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

During FY2015, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific continued to implement three types of activities to strengthen the capacity of national government agencies and other organizations in the Asia-Pacific region to prepare climate change adaptation project proposals to improve access to climate financing. These included:

- Program for capacity building of government officials through training courses on enhancing knowledge of and access to various sources of international climate finance;
- Direct technical support to national governments to improve their capacity to access and/or better manage climate adaptation finance; and
- Standalone capacity building programs, which will help national and local decision-makers integrate climate change adaptation into development planning and project preparation.



Participants at the UCCAR pilot training at Maumere, Flores, Indonesia list and prioritize key vulnerabilities of their communities due to climate change. The UCCAR training course is aimed at mid-to senior-level officials of urban local governments to build their capacity to assess vulnerabilities and risks and develop strategies and projects to adapt to climate change.

3.1 PROGRAM FOR CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT THROUGH TRAINING COURSES

The Government Training Support Program (GTSP) supports qualified government officials from USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific eligible countries to attend training programs in climate adaptation and climate finance on a competitive basis. During FY2015, the project supported 15 government officials to attend high-quality training courses that complemented their climate adaptation roles and responsibilities, and expanded their CCA knowledge and capability in addressing the issues. A choice of 12 training courses was offered during FY2015 including:

- Climate adaptation and resilient cities
- Flood disaster risk management in a changing climate

- GIS for disaster risk management
- Climate change adaptation in agriculture and natural resources management
- Building resilient communities in a changing climate: Community-managed disaster risk reduction
- Managing risk in the face of climate change
- Improving grassroots equity in a forests and climate change context
- Integrated water resource management (IWRM) as a tool for adaptation to climate change
- Community-based disaster risk reduction in a changing climate
- Climate risk management in a changing environment
- Climate change governance.

The selected participants were a mix of junior, mid-level and senior officials from eight countries -- Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, the Philippines, and Timor Leste. With diverse backgrounds, these participants came from a wide range of government institutions, departments, and ministries, such as soil conservation; remote sensing; ministries of science, technology and environment and finance; national bank for agriculture and rural development (NABARD); department of soil conservation and watershed management; national parks; department of rural water supply; fiscal policy agency; and the Philippines senate's economic and planning office. Out of the 15 participants, four were women. Of the total, four participants were from local governments at the city, district and provincial level.

Following the first survey of GTSP participants in 2014, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific conducted two further remote surveys during FY2015. The results of the two surveys is summarized below:

Table 5: Summary of Survey Results of GTSP Participants

GOVERNMENT TRAINING SUPPORT PROGRAM SURVEY RESPONSES			
SURVEY	COUNTRIES REPRESENTED	RESPONDENTS	PARTICIPANT RESPONSES
One-year survey	5 Bangladesh, India, Lao PDR, Nepal, Timor Leste	Sent: 16 Male - 9 Female – 7 Responses: 14 Male – 9 Female - 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased technical capability; • Expanded responsibility within the organization • Some reported creating new CCA initiatives; • Better on-the-job performance; • Some reported positive professional impact on colleagues
Six-month survey	9 Bangladesh India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal Samoa, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Vietnam	Sent: 13 Male – 10 Female – 3 Responses: 9 Male – 8 Female - 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased technical capability; • Advanced capability in effectively delivering work assignments; • Influenced policy initiatives; • Some prepared CCA projects, or manage climate change programs.

The second annual survey conducted in early 2015 concluded that the trainees received some common benefits from participating in the program. Commonly identified benefits included increased technical capability, expanded technical responsibility at the workplace, better performance, and professional impact on colleagues and workplace reputation. In addition, a few

champions emerged who successfully developed climate change adaptation initiatives through their direct involvement in development projects or in the planning of climate change-related activities.

Later in the year, another survey conducted, as a six-month follow-up with a new batch of trainees, reported similar benefits as the previous survey results. The increased knowledge and effective capacity in performing assigned roles and responsibilities were among the most immediate benefits they reported. For example, a Deputy Director at the Department of Water Resource Management in Vietnam reported that she can now provide better advice to relevant departments and ministries to improve water resource management and governance in the country.

Trainees further reported that their participation in the training courses has changed the way they address the issues of climate adaptation – taking a more holistic approach, focusing on results-based planning, prioritizing adaptation for more effective project management, and applying key lessons to project implementation. For example, an Assistant Director at a remote sensing center in Lao PDR indicates he has imparted training on GIS and remote sensing techniques along with disaster management theory to local officers in support of the design of projects.

There are also indications that GTSP is delivering results on-the-ground. An Assistant General Manager at NABARD in India reported that he acquired knowledge of better techniques and skills to prepare and appraise adaptation projects, and is currently working on three project proposals on ecosystem-based adaptation to improve the resilience of rural farmers in drought-prone areas. A Health Chief Officer from Barisal City in Bangladesh, who attended a course on flood disaster risk management, has begun to integrate disaster management activities into the city’s development projects, one of which targets disaster-prone areas of riverside slums. Furthermore, a district-level Soil Conservation Officer in Nepal applied GIS techniques in hazard mapping and addressed sub-watershed prioritization in the district management plan.

While the ultimate objective of GTSP is to build capacity of government officials to identify and develop adaptation proposals to access financing, one key challenge is that this program has no role in ensuring supported officials actually work on project preparation activities once returning to their home country. Nonetheless, a least six officials who received USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific training support this year have been involved in formulating climate adaptation projects for submission to climate adaptation funds, taking part in climate adaptation budgeting, and drafting adaptation-related fiscal policy.

Overall, it is clear that the GTSP program has started to bear fruit, providing governments in Asia with an increased number of more capable officials who have a higher level of awareness to address climate change adaptation issues. Officials supported through the program are addressing climate adaptation-related issues at different levels through different channels in performing their day-to-day responsibilities. These officials are also coming forward as *champions* equipped with technical knowledge, techniques, and tools to create *change* for adaptation policies and activities. Some, if not all, will be key *drivers* in helping USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific-supported countries achieve their climate adaptation objectives and deliver results sustainably.

3.2 DIRECT TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

Early baseline investigation by the project during FY2012 found that there was no national government agency in the Asia-Pacific region with direct access to the specialized climate change funds (like the UNFCCC Adaptation Fund). Therefore, in addition to the project’s initial two-pronged approach of designing tailored capacity building activities with regional institutions and collaborating with multilateral and U.N. agencies in the preparation of climate change adaptation projects, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific sought out opportunities to work directly with national governments to strengthen institutional capacity to directly access and/or better manage adaptation financing for the preparation of climate adaptation projects. Capacity building and project preparation are thus intimately linked and fall along a continuum of technical assistance that enable the target countries to develop better

quality projects and access international climate change financing for the identified projects. Through the support of USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific it is expected that over time countries and supported institutions will ideally evolve from capacity building to project preparation and vice versa.

In FY2015, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's initiatives included capacity building activities in Thailand and Cambodia through the Watershed-Based Adaptation to Climate Change (WACC) activity; support to the Indonesia Climate Change Trust Fund; support regionally to the Pacific through PIFS and SPREP; assistance in Tonga to prepare a climate finance assessment; and support to selected Pacific Small Island Developing States (PacSIDS) in identifying and developing CCA proposals for funding by the Green Climate Facility (GCF).

WATERSHED-BASED ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE (WACC)

Building on letters of cooperation with two US institutions – the US Forest Service (USFS) and the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) – the WACC team:

- Agreed on a study approach and methodology for a model vulnerability assessment tool;
- Prepared draft tables of contents for the vulnerability assessment report and the assessment guidelines;
- Undertook field investigations;
- Produced downscaled climate models for the study site;
- Participated in a training on the Water Evaluation and Planning System (WEAP); and
- Produced interim progress reports.



A WACC participants reviews a large poster presentation of the WACC activity. WACC will demonstrate a model watershed vulnerability assessment that can be replicated in Thailand and neighboring countries. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific facilitated key partnerships with US Forest Service (USFS) and the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) to support the activity.

An active exchange of ideas took place between USFS, National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT), and the WACC team. The discussions improved the technical understanding of the WACC team of what is required to do a model watershed vulnerability assessment that can be replicated in other watersheds in Thailand and neighboring countries. NCAR guidance on downscaling climate models is strengthening Ramkhamhaeng University's capacity to not only contribute to WACC objectives, but to serve as an important national center for such activities in future. The WACC team is on track to deliver a draft vulnerability assessment report and assessment guidelines by December 2015. These and other WACC products, and the experience gained by members of the WACC team, are expected to help Thailand and other interested countries to improve their ability to prepare high quality project proposals for climate action at the watershed and sub-watershed levels. Additionally, members of the WACC team participated in a Roundtable on Climate Change Adaptation in the GMS; this informal group is expected to produce watershed climate vulnerability assessment guidelines for the sub-region, and WACC's draft guidelines are expected to be folded into these sub-regional guidelines.

After initially participating in the first USFS field visit-cum-team building exercise in October 2014, followed by visits by NRCT staff to their respective countries, representatives from Lao PDR and Vietnam informed NRCT that they would be unable to continue participation as full WACC team members. Two representatives from Cambodia continued to serve as members of the WACC team through July 2015. Toyota Thailand met with the WACC team and, based on a design prepared through cooperation between USFS and USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific staff, has agreed to consider funding an international learning center at the project site with displays based on information gathered during the WACC study.

PHILIPPINES - ASSIST DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF) TO ACHIEVE ADAPTATION FUND ACCREDITATION

With sustained support from USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific over the last three years, the Philippines' Department of Finance (DoF) submitted its application for accreditation as a national implementing entity (NIE) with the UNFCCC Adaptation Fund (AF) in December 2012. During FY2013 and FY2014, the project assisted DoF in responding to multiple rounds of comments from AF regarding its ability to address AF's criteria for accreditation. Unfortunately, FY2015 saw no progress toward DoF achieving NIE accreditation with AF. The main issue has been AF's comment/requirement to establish a fully functioning internal audit unit. DoF, for reasons unknown, is yet to establish the unit.

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific indicated to DoF senior management during the first quarter of FY2015 that it was prepared to assist DoF with this initiative if it issued the required internal Department Order and received a positive, time-bound response from AF regarding next steps for accreditation. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's trusted national consultant, who has worked closely with DoF over the past three years, has been in constant contact with DoF and has been on stand-by ready to assist. After repeated enquires over the past 7-8 months on the status of its position, however, DoF has not signaled any intention to proceed with setting up the internal audit unit. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific does not have knowledge if the internal Department Order was issued.

Abandoning this activity as the project enters its last year, after three years of effort with an institution that is clearly well positioned for AF accreditation, would truly be a missed opportunity. AF accreditation would make DoF only the second national institution to achieve NIE status in Asia and the Pacific. Successfully achieving AF accreditation would further position DoF for fast-track accreditation with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) (a similar path recently followed by India's NABARD) and for accessing potentially a much greater source of climate financing. Given the importance of achieving DoF accreditation for the project's goals and objectives and the considerable time and resources put toward this activity to date, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific will continue to monitor during the initial phase of FY2016 a DoF request for further project support.

INDONESIA - SUPPORTING INDONESIA CLIMATE CHANGE TRUST FUND (ICCTF)

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has previously assisted ICCTF with development of a project selection and ranking system, improvements to its monitoring and evaluation system, and assisted with an initial foray into its fund raising strategy. The selection and ranking system was trialed at a workshop in FY2014 and stakeholders began the process of identifying and preparing projects for funding, several of which have now been approved in FY2015. Through cooperation between USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific and the bilateral USAID mission, USAID/Indonesia recently allocated an initial contribution of about \$5 million to the ICCTF, of which \$1 million will be allocated to small grant adaptation projects.

The current additional assistance from USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific in FY2015 (involving one international and three local consultants) is helping to revise the screening criteria, project formats, and environmental and social safeguards protocols, identify potential projects from a long list, and to formulate the highest priority projects. The funding from USAID/Indonesia and additional funding to be made available from the national budget and other donors will be allocated to these priority projects. From an initial long list of 490 project ideas, the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific team is working to identify 6 projects to be funded in 2015, and possibly up to 10 projects to be funded in 2016. An additional call for proposals will be issued in late Q1FY2016. In addition, the international consultant is helping formulate the environmental and social safeguards protocol, which is an essential element for ICCTF's application to become a National Implementing Entity for the Green Climate Fund.



A woman in Batutua, Indonesia sells anchovies. With support from USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific, ICCTF will operationalize a grants window to fund small CCA projects related to fisheries livelihoods.

TONGA CLIMATE FINANCE ASSESSMENT

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific partnered with the Kingdom of Tonga's Ministry of Finance and National Planning (MFNP), UNDP, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Secretariat of the Pacific Region Environment Programme (SPREP), and UNWOMEN during FY2015 to undertake a Climate Finance and Risk Governance Assessment (CFRGA). The CFRGA assesses options for improved access to, and management of, international climate and disaster funding for the Kingdom of Tonga. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific provided a Climate Change Finance Specialist who made substantial contributions to the CFRGA.

As part of the CFRGA, stakeholder consultative workshops were conducted with key staff from the lead agency MFNP and other relevant agencies, including Department of Climate Change (DCC) and National Emergency Management Office (NEMO). The first workshop in March 2015, attended by approximately 50 local participants, sought widespread feedback on initial observations while the second workshop in May 2015 presented preliminary recommendations following consultations with around 30 local stakeholders from the government, public enterprises, private sector, NGOs and civil society. The workshops discussed major issues related to how Tonga could best access and effectively use Climate Change Disaster Risk Management (CCDRM) finance. The workshops educated and informed policy makers about the CCDRM policy options to better access and use CCDRM finance.

The Climate Change Finance Specialist, working with a counterpart from a local financial consulting firm, met individually with all Deputy CEOs of MFNP to discuss options for improving access to CCDRM Finance. This involved: i) compiling and analyzing CCDRM project databases and national budget programs; ii) discussing financing modalities, including trust funds and budget support; and iii) making detailed recommendations on public financial management (PFM) reforms, improved project cycle management and capacity development. The CFRGA team, as a whole, also met with the Minister of MFNP and CEOs to review recommendations. The work further consolidated working partnerships with key regional institutions for CCDRM in the Pacific Islands, especially UNDP, PIFS and SPREP. The final report will present detailed recommendations and options to the Government of Tonga to better access and use CCDRM finance, including recommendations about appropriate modalities (e.g. trust funds, lines of credit) to address CC and DRM. The Final Report is expected to be released in December 2015 after incorporating final comments from Government of the Kingdom of Tonga, MFNP and major partners.

STRENGTHENING PIFS REGIONAL ROLE IN CLIMATE FINANCE

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific (jointly with UNDP and PFTAC) has assisted PIFS with a climate finance assessment for the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and another similar assessment for Tonga (see above). PIFS initially provided a long list of possible areas of support that USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific could provide, although in total the level of effort would be well beyond the resource limitations of the project and not appropriate for this stage of the project. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific will assist PIFS establish a Technical Support Unit (TSU) for implementation of the new Resilient Development Strategy for the Pacific (<http://gsd.spc.int/srdp/>) which will be supported by the World Bank. One international consultant has been provided to PIFS to assist with this work and to prepare a synthesis study on climate finance for the Pacific Island countries for the Pacific Leaders' Forum, which was held in PNG in September. Unfortunately, there has been some reluctance on the part of some countries to adopt the combined disaster risk reduction and climate change strategy, so the support to establishing the TSU is experiencing some delays.

ASSIST SELECTED PACIFIC SIDS WITH READINESS AND PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES TO FACILITATE ACCESSING GCF CLIMATE FINANCING

As the major financing source for climate change adaptation in the near term, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) will need to be a major focus of the remaining one year of the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific project. Following recent pledging of more than \$10 billion, GCF is expected to start disbursements in late 2015. A number of development agencies are assisting Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to prepare for GCF financing, so USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific was highly selective in developing this activity in partnership with SPREP. After multiple discussions with SPREP and in agreement with USAID, this activity has now been integrated with USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's support to ADB/SPREP Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM) for project preparation to access climate finance (see below).

ASSIST OPERATIONALIZATION OF ADB/SPREP RTSM FOR PROJECT PREPARATION TO ACCESS CLIMATE FINANCE

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has indicated its willingness to build capacity of SPREP's Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM) being funded under the regional PPCR project implemented by ADB. Based on extensive discussions with SPREP, it has been agreed that USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific will assist Pacific Island countries to develop specific adaptation projects for submission to the GCF through SPREP, utilizing the RTSM, where necessary, to identify additional consultant inputs during the project preparation phase. One regional consultant has been appointed to assist with this activity. At the GCF workshop held in Fiji in July 2015, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific conducted a session with selected national designated authorities of the GCF to develop a long list of possible project concepts.

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is also working with selected PacSIDS to improve CCA project proposals for AF funding. In July/August 2015, the project assisted SPREP to extensively revise its concept submission to the Adaptation Fund for *Enhancing the Climate Change Resilience of Vulnerable Island Atoll Communities in Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)*, for \$8.9 million. Previously the concept had been twice rejected by the AF Secretariat. The revised submission was submitted on 4 August but was withdrawn by SPREP from consideration at the October 8-9 AF Board meeting as it was incomplete. It will now be resubmitted in January 2016. In addition to the FSM project, assistance is being provided to SPREP for projects in Tonga and possibly also Nauru. The Nauru project, if it proceeds, will be a relatively simple water supply proposal at under \$1 million and therefore may be ready for submission in January 2016. The Tonga project is related to agriculture and may be ready for submission by second quarter 2016. A fourth project may be identified in Republic of the Marshall Islands for agricultural adaptation for \$7 million - considerable inputs are required on this proposal that has been rejected once by the AF Secretariat as a concept.



Coastal erosion in the Solomon Islands due to rising sea levels and damage from storm surges. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is working with SPREP and PacSIDS to identify and prepare CCA projects for GCF funding. SPREP, as a RIE for both the AF and the GCF, is able to submit CCA project proposals from PacSIDS directly to both funds for approval.

OPERATIONALIZE ECCA IN A SELECTED GOVERNMENT MINISTRY

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific and UNDP agreed on terms of reference to operationalize ECCA in the Maldives. The Maldives country team has been a leader in the ECCA program, and UNDP has follow-on programs planned for the Maldives which could provide a platform for the sustained use and further development of ECCA methods and procedures in the country. This activity under USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific would, therefore, help to usher in this longer-term program under UNDP. Plans to operationalize ECCA were advanced only to this point in FY2015, however, because the ECCA study had not yet reached a point at which this new initiative could be started. If approved by USAID/RDMA, activities are expected to begin in early FY2016 and completed in about 6 months.

3.3 DEVELOPING STANDALONE CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS

The project's FY2012 regional capacity building assessment identified gaps in human capacity and capacity building institutions in the Asia region. To help fill these gaps, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific designed and is currently implementing standalone capacity building programs. Initial priority gaps identified included the economics of climate change adaptation, the integration of climate adaptation

into the functions of urban governance, and the climate proofing of infrastructure against the negative impacts of climate change. With the benefit of USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's experience in project development and climate finance over the last four years, the project will focus on institutionalizing this knowledge in the region. In the form of training courses, knowledge products, tools, methodologies and guidelines, and in partnership with regional and national institutions, the proposed standalone capacity building programs will support government agencies and officials better prepare for climate change adaptation and access climate finance much beyond the end of the project.

In FY2015 activities included an ongoing standalone innovative program that will ultimately help national and local decision-makers integrate climate change adaptation into development planning and to provide the tools that allow government agencies to design "bankable" adaptation projects. Through this Economics of Climate Change Adaptation (ECCA) program, training was provided to ten country teams as detailed below. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific completed course development and pilot-testing of the Urban Climate Change and Resilience (UCCAR) training course. The UCCAR training program will be rolled out in FY2016 in partnership with regional and national universities and training institutions that will continue to host and offer the training beyond the life of the project as elaborated below. Finally USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific commenced the development of a new training program on Project Preparation that will incorporate lessons learned and best practices from the project's activities in developing CCA project proposals.

REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM ON THE ECONOMICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION (ECCA)

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Yale University, and the Asian Development Bank, has been implementing the capacity building program on the Economics of Climate Change Adaptation (ECCA) since FY2013. Ten "country teams" (from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam) are participating. Country teams consist of government-appointed officials that have diverse technical backgrounds in economics, climate change, water, agriculture, national planning, and finance. Training consists of regional workshops followed by in-country work guided by project-provided mentors.



The Mongolia ECCA country team works with an ECCA mentor to finalize their sectoral data analysis and incorporate climate projections at the min-workshop in FY2015. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has been supporting the ECCA capacity building program in partnership with UNDP in ten Asian countries. In FY2016 the country teams will present policy recommendations for adapting to the negative impacts of climate change to decision-makers in their respective countries.

In FY 2015, seven of the 10 country teams completed all in-country field work, and five teams (Bangladesh, Maldives, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand) are in the process of preparing country reports. These country reports (together with the trained government staff) will:

- Serve as the basis for undertaking further work in economics of climate change adaptation in the respective countries through UNDP's long-term program of support for National Adaptation Plan preparation and implementation, especially in terms of helping governments to rationalize decisions on appropriate climate adaptation project proposals;
- Provide governments with policy advice based on the study findings; and
- Serve as a springboard for possible continuation and expansion of ECCA training in the region by UNDP.

Preparation of a regional report that will gather all the country reports under one cover and draw conclusions on regional adaptation trends and options in the agriculture sector was started in FY2015. ECCA materials have been compiled on an UNDP website, and these materials are contributing to the preparation by USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific of a training course on climate adaptation project preparation. In addition, with assistance from USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific, agreement was reached between UNDP and the United Nations University to take materials from the ECCA training and create a new, 10-day, post-graduate climate change adaptation economics course that will be offered through UNU. The primary audience will be government practitioners. UNDP has allocated funds for course delivery in 2016 and expects to allocate further funds for delivery in 2017.

COURSE ON URBAN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE (UCCAR)



Participants at the UCCAR pilot training in Manila, Philippines develop Problem and Objective Trees to define specific projects from broad climate change adaptation strategies. The UCCAR training has been developed in partnership with the East West Center and is being delivered through host institutions in each country that will customize the training to the country context.

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has been developing the UCCAR training program over the past two years in collaboration with the East West Center at the University of Hawaii (EWC). The seven-module, five-day course is targeted at mid- to senior-level urban managers, including officials of city governments/municipalities. The course starts with an introduction to climate change and climate change adaptation; provides tools and techniques for assessing climate change impacts and

vulnerabilities; provides a framework for identification, evaluation, selection, and implementation of climate adaptation strategies, programs and projects; and finally looks at the options available for financing adaptation projects and methods of accessing climate change finance.

In FY2015 the course materials were completed and tested through three pilot training programs in Indonesia and the Philippines. One of the key modalities for the pilot-test phase was partnering with a host institution for delivering the course. In Indonesia, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific partnered with the Institute of Technology Bandung (ITB) and Yayasan Kota Kita (YKK) and in Philippines the training was delivered in partnership with PLANADES, a part of the School of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Philippines. In all cases the local partner greatly enhanced the training, tailoring the course materials to the local context, providing relevant and customized data sets and case studies, and linking the training with national and local laws, policies, and regulatory requirements for urban climate change adaptation. The course materials are now being finalized with all training materials, a guidebook for participants, a guide for trainers, and case studies and exercises.

PACIFIC COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS (P-CBA) TRAINING

Since January 2014, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is leveraging the lessons learned from the ongoing USAID Asia Adapt Asia-Pacific/UNDP Economics of Climate Change Adaptation capacity building program to extend Cost-Benefit Analysis training in the Pacific (P-CBA). The P-CBA training is being developed in close collaboration with the GIZ, UNDP, and other regional organizations and with the University of the South Pacific, a preferred host for integrating the in-country training materials into its permanent curriculum for its graduate students in the Faculty of Business and Economics (FBE). CBA training has been delivered to date in the four PICs of Fiji, FSM, Vanuatu, and Samoa, principally through in-country activities and mentoring opportunities. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific continued to support this initiative in FY2015 through the provision of a Regional Coordinator on a full- and then part-time basis. In addition to supporting the conducting of in-country CBA training courses and mentoring of course participants, the Regional Coordinator assisted in the preparation of Terms of Reference and the procurement of the services of two consultants to support the development of a 10-credit module for integration and delivery by USP's Faculty of Business and Economics (FBE). At a meeting in the Pacific in May, the P-CBA partners took the decision, while agreeing to take a fresh look at the way forward for the activity, to continue to support the CBA activity through FY2016.

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM FOR ASIA ON PROJECT PREPARATION, INCORPORATING ADAPT TOOLS, GUIDELINES AND METHODS

Drawing on the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is developing a training program on project preparation incorporating the lessons from previous project preparation (Task 4) activities, and tools, guides, and methods developed over the past four years. While the details of this regional training program are still being worked out, there is an exciting possibility of developing and delivering the program in conjunction with ADB and UNDP. This five-day course aimed at national level government officials will comprise five modules to bring officials responsible for climate change adaptation to a higher level of understanding of what constitutes an acceptable project proposal and how to manage the project preparation process. The program will not be designed to make them experts in climate change adaptation, rather to know enough to manage the process of project preparation to successful conclusion. In FY2015 through initial meetings with ADB, UNDP and other partners, an initial course outline was drawn up and key resources were identified to develop the course materials. Material from ECCA and the UCCAR training will be incorporated in the five modules - vulnerability assessment, adaptation options, economics of adaptation, accessing climate finance, and managing project preparation. Participants will be required to bring their own national material and prepare specific projects for graduation at the end of the program.

3.4 INDICATOR RESULTS SUMMARY

As detailed in Table 6 below, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific met performance targets for two USAID standard indicators, and exceeded one standard and one custom indicator under the Task 3. The project exceeded performance targets for number of person hours of training completed in climate change and amount of funds mobilized due to the demand-driven nature of the project and opportunities for collaboration with international development agencies and regional learning institutions in capacity building activities in the Pacific and the successful development of the UCCAR training course. The collaboration with ADB, GIZ, SPC, SPREP, UNDP and USP for the organization of cost-benefit analysis training courses in three Pacific countries, namely FSM, Samoa and Vanuatu, as well as the collaboration with UNDP on the Economics of Climate Change Adaptation, also significantly increased non-USAID funds mobilized by the project.

Table 6: FY2015 CAPACITY BUILDING TASKS INDICATORS RESULTS

PROGRAM ELEMENT 4.8.2. CLEAN PRODUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT			
PMP INDICATORS		FY2015 TARGETS	TASK 3 CONTRIBUTION
IR 1.1	Person hours of training completed in climate change supported by USG assistance/Number of people trained in climate change	3,600/120	5,148/194
IR 1.2	Number of institutions with improved capacity to address climate issues as a result of USG assistance	4	4
IR 2.5	Number of climate mitigation and/or adaptation tools, technologies, and methodologies, developed, tested, and/or adopted as a result of USG assistance	1	1
IR 2.6	Amount of funds in U.S. dollars from non-USAID sources mobilized and applied to support project preparation facility objectives	\$225,000	\$318,396

TASK 4: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN PREPARING FUNDING PROPOSALS

During FY2015, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific supported project preparation efforts in Asia directly with national governments in Cambodia, Indonesia, India, Nepal, Philippines, and Timor Leste, and in the Pacific through SPREP with selected Pacific Island countries (PICs). Project preparation needs range from helping to select priority projects, adding 1-3 consultants to specific project preparation teams (as is the usual case with UNDP), to reviewing projects prepared by national bodies. In all cases, the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific assistance continues until the projects reach the approving body. To date, all projects prepared with USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific assistance have been approved or are in the pipeline for approval and the governments and project preparation agencies are highly grateful for the assistance received.

4.1 PROJECT PREPARATION WITH GOVERNMENT COUNTERPARTS

ASSIST NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (NABARD) TO PREPARE ADAPTATION FUND PROJECTS, INDIA



Farmers planting mangroves to protect shorelines against coastal flooding in Andhra Pradesh, India. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific supported NABARD and its EE MSSRF to access AF funding to support the project. (Photo credit: M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation.)

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has been supporting NABARD and its Executing Entities (EEs) in India since 2014 to prepare projects for funding by the AF. Two project proposals were prepared during FY2014 and approved at the AF's October Board meeting, and a third project was approved at the

AF's April Board meeting in FY2015. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific support to date has demonstrated the quality of project documentation and the appraisal skills required to obtain AF finance. Through field visits and working sessions with NABARD and its partner NGOs (the EEs that make project proposals to NABARD for funding by the AF, and then implement the projects once they are approved) USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has:

1. Explained the AF requirements as per their template for project preparation and policy requirements.
2. Given step-by-step guidance on how to prepare the project documents, as well as extensively edited/redesigned draft project documents prepared by EEs, and provided models and formats for results frameworks, tables, text and annexes. Editing of draft documents prepared by EEs to provide coherence and compliance with template requirements and how to respond to AF review feedback was provided to 5 EEs and NABARD. The number of edited PD drafts typically ranged from 6 to 10 on each project before the documents were suitable for AF Board approval. As a result India has more approved AF projects than any other country and NABARD is better equipped with examples for use in the future.
3. Provided hands-on training and feedback to staff of NABARD and EEs.

In FY2015, USAID Asia-Pacific maintained its support for the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and undertook several missions to Mumbai to meet with officials and discuss ongoing project submissions and other guidelines that have been provided and are in use for staff training: (i) *Vulnerability Assessment*; (ii) *Checklist for Project Identification*; and (iii) *Guidelines for Climate Change Adaptation Projects: Preparing and Appraising Projects for the Adaptation Fund (June 2015)*. Also NABARD and executing entities (EEs) were assisted to prepare three approved Adaptation Fund projects (MSSRF, DRCSC and TAAL). USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific also contributed to the collaboration between NABARD and EEs. This helped NABARD to build a better partnership system with its EEs. Two ongoing project submissions that are due for approval in FY2016 will further add to the project experience of NABARD and provide good quality material for staff training as well as reference projects for NABARD and EEs in preparing future submissions for climate financing.

These activities have built a degree of confidence in NABARD and begun the long process of building capacity within NABARD and a limited number of its EEs to prepare projects that are fully compliant with the AF guidelines. In FY2015 the following three projects were approved:

(i) *Enhancing Adaptive Capacity and Increasing Resilience of Small and Marginal Farmers in Purulia and Bankura Districts of West Bengal* for \$2,512,865. Approved by AF Board on 10/10/2014 - **Development Research Communication and Services Center (DRCSC):**

DRCSC is a specialist rural development NGO, based in Kolkata, with many years of experience working on poverty reduction and agriculture in West Bengal. DRCSC is the executing entity (EE) for a project submitted through the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to the global Adaptation Fund (AF). As an EE, DRCSC has primary responsibility for project preparation and then implementation and monitoring post-approval. As the National Executing Entity for the AF, NABARD's guidelines and governance requirements are to be followed during implementation of the project.

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific contributed to the institutional strengthening of DRCSC through technical assistance and training in project preparation, monitoring and evaluation. DRCSC staff benefitted in FY2014 from a two-day workshop in their office in Kolkata, India. DRCSC staff attended the workshop that focused on their submission to the Adaptation Fund. The workshop covered some key areas of project preparation, including development and application of internal procedures and methods for the project preparation and implementation, and focused on the requirements of the AF project template, including compliance with the AF's environment and social policy. DRCSC staff came to better understand the necessary team composition, sequence

of tasks and analysis, and the overall quality of documentation required for financial approval. The result of this experience was highly positive for DRCSC and they now have a project document that can be used in the preparation of subsequent submissions for climate change adaptation financing.



With support from USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific, NABARD, India's accredited NIE and DRCSC (NABARD's EE) were able to secure funding from AF for a CCA project in Purulia district, West Bengal, India to introduce adaptive techniques and resilient farming practices for small and marginal farmers.

(ii) Conservation and Management of Coastal Resources as a Potential Adaptation Strategy for Sea Level Rise for \$689,264. Approved by AF Board on 10/10/2014 - **M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF):**

MSSRF is a specialist rural development NGO, based in Chennai, with many years of experience and a strong reputation for working on poverty reduction and aquaculture and mangrove systems throughout the coastal zone of India. MSSRF is the executing entity (EE) for a project submitted through the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to the global Adaptation Fund (AF). As an EE MSSRF has primary responsibility for project preparation and then implementation and monitoring post-approval. As the National Executing Entity for the AF, NABARD's guidelines and governance requirements are to be followed during implementation of the project. MSSRF staff benefitted in FY 2014 from several face-to-face meetings in the NABARD HQ, Mumbai. The meetings covered all key areas of the project preparation, including project structure and format in line with AF requirements, quality control of tables, diagrams, component descriptions, annexes, financial analysis of resilient livelihoods, cost-effectiveness analysis, project results framework, compliance with environmental and social policy aspects of the AF, and all other requirements of the AF project template. Two MSSRF staff attended these meetings that focused on their submission to the Adaptation Fund.

USAID Asia-Pacific contributed significantly to the quality of the documentation that was approved. Through direct contact and multiple edits of various drafts of the project document,

MSSRF staff came to better understand the quality required for financial approval. The result of this experience was highly positive for MSSRF and they now have a project document that can be used in the preparation of subsequent submissions for climate change adaptation financing.

(iii) *Building Adaptive Capacities of Small Inland Fishers for Climate Resilience and Livelihood Security, Madhya Pradesh, India for \$1,790,500.* Approved by AF Board on 4/10/2015 - **Towards Action and Learning (TAAL):**

TAAL is a specialist rural development NGO, based in Bhopal, with many years of experience in aquaculture and inland fisheries in the dry zone of rural India. TAAL is the executing entity (EE) for a project submitted through the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to the global Adaptation Fund (AF). As an EE TAAL has primary responsibility for project preparation and then implementation and monitoring post-approval. As the National Executing Entity for the AF, NABARD's guidelines and governance requirements are to be followed during implementation of the project. In FY2015, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific contributed to the institutional strengthening of TAAL through technical assistance and training in project preparation, monitoring and evaluation. TAAL staff benefitted in FY2015 from a field visit to a proposed project site and a face-to-face meeting in Madhya Pradesh, the state where TAAL is based. The meeting covered all key areas of the project preparation, including project structure and format in line with AF requirements, quality control of tables, diagrams, component descriptions, annexes, financial analysis of resilient livelihoods, cost-effectiveness analysis, project results framework, compliance with environmental and social policy aspects of the AF, and all other requirements of the AF project template. Six-seven TAAL staff attended the meeting that focused on their submission to the Adaptation Fund

TAAL was also helped to prepare a quality project document. Through direct contact and multiple edits of various drafts of the project document, TAAL staff came to better understand the quality of analysis and documentation required for financial approval. The result of this experience was highly positive for TAAL and they now have a project document that can be used in the preparation of subsequent submissions for climate change adaptation financing.

MYSORE PFS DEVELOPMENT, INDIA (CDIA AND ICLEI)

During FY2015, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific worked with ICLEI - South Asia, an international association of local governments, to build on the Rockefeller Foundation-funded urban resilience strategy in the Indian city of Mysore to prepare a bankable climate change adaptation project for financing. The Manila-based Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA), a project preparation arm of the Asia Development Bank (ADB), was brought in as a partner on this initiative. A tripartite agreement among the parties sets out the individual roles and responsibilities for the overall assignment.

Mysore has been identified as the best suited location for an urban climate change investment project, one of the first of its kind in urban climate change adaptation projects in India. Identifying a range of financing sources for the project will be a key aim of the study. Discussions with Mysore City Cooperation (MCC) commenced in early 2014, followed by a detailed mission in August 2014, and stakeholder consultation in January 2015 resulting in a city application for CDIA assistance in May 2015. This application was approved by CDIA in June 2015 and the terms of reference that was primarily drafted by USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific support was approved by Mysore City in July 2015.¹ Within the overall envelope of the application it has been agreed that support to MCC will comprise the preparation of a pre-feasibility study (PFS) for an *Integrated Drainage System and Climate Change Adaptation Project*.

¹ ADB was also actively involved in the final drafting of the TOR, and is highly likely to finance the invest project as part of a cluster approach involving a number of medium sized Indian cities.

VALENZUELA PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY, PHILIPPINES (CDIA)

Cities Development Initiatives for Asia (CDIA), a regional initiative established in 2007 by the Asian Development Bank and the Government of Germany that provides support to medium-sized Asian cities to bridge the gap between their development plans and the preparation of infrastructure investment projects, and USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific partnered in cooperation with the City Government of Valenzuela in conducting a prefeasibility study (PFS) of the city of Valenzuela (one of the 16 highly urbanized cities of Metropolitan Manila). The aim of the PFS is to reduce the adverse economic, social, and environmental impacts of flooding in the most affected area in the western and southern parts of the city. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific provided two consultants (an international economist and national environmental specialist) to work with a six-person CDIA team of experts. Preliminary work indicates that an investment amount of about US\$54 million is required not including land acquisition costs and detailed engineering design work.

The PFS was completed and submitted to the Government in FY2015. However, Valenzuela City is unlikely to implement it as designed due to lack of own-source finance. Neither the World Bank nor ADB is likely to pursue all elements of the PFS as a loan project for VC, although a bilateral donor may be identified at some point in future. Copies of the PFS have been given to both the World Bank and ADB, and there is a very good possibility that some of the identified investments in the project area may be implemented in the short- to medium-term. The situation with regards to financing by World Bank and ADB is as follows:

- **World Bank Metro Manila Flood Management – Phase 1:** Following preparation of the Flood Management Master Plan for the Greater Metro Manila Area (with WB assistance) it was approved in September 2012. The master plan envisages about \$8 billion investment over a 20- to 25-year period. The WB is now preparing a program loan of \$300 million as part of the overall project cost of \$500 million to finance the first phase of the master plan for flood protection (70%), solid waste management (15%), and sub-national government administration (15%). The pre-appraisal/appraisal of the loan is planned for September and Board approval is estimated first quarter 2016. The loan will include two components for which VC may be eligible: (i) modernization of pumping stations; and (ii) minimizing solid waste in waterways. *However the specific locations for implementation will be determined during implementation based on screening criteria.* The project is expected to focus on about 50 drainage areas in 7-8 Local Government Units. Based on an institutional assessment that will determine Metro Manila Development Authority and Local Government Unit capacity to sustainably manage the infrastructure and other developments under the proposed project, an institutional strengthening sub-component may be included.
- **ADB:** ADB may become *involved* again in Metro Manila, and if so is likely to take advantage of the *Project Feasibility Study (PFS) on the Integrated Flood Risk Management for the City of Valenzuela*. At the present time there has been no commitment between ADB and the Government for ADB to lend for flood management in MM.

DEVELOPING A DEMONSTRATION SITE ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION, GENDER AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY IN BISHNUPUR, NEPAL

USAID Adapt Asia Pacific has partnered with RECOFTC – The Center for People and Trees working in Nepal’s Sarlahi District to provide adaptation support to the District Forestry Office (DFO) and a women-only community forestry user group (CFUG). The activity has as its objectives to: (i) develop a long-term demonstration site that will identify gender-sensitive community forestry-based climate change adaptation activities through participatory approaches; (ii) support the DFO and CFUG in the development of climate adaptation project proposals; and (iii) implement those activities in a women-only CFUG. The emphasis throughout FY2015 has been on linking the vulnerability assessment, inclusive of a financing option analysis of what is available via the existing local and district government channels, to the design of adaptation proposals to be submitted for funding.



A women-led community forestry user group in Nepal's Sarlahi district grapples with identifying adaptation options for the forestry landscape. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has empowered this group of women to not only understand and take action on climate change, but also to apply for and receive both financial and in-kind support from the relevant district authorities.

Building on the initial community consultations which took place in the last quarter of FY2014, in FY2015 USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific/RECOFTC team established a framework for community forestry landscape-based climate change adaptation. Based on this framework, the team undertook a participatory vulnerability assessment, together with the DFO and the women-led CFUG, identifying three prime areas of intervention for the Bishnupur community:

1. *Riverbank stabilization:* With an increased likelihood of more intense rainfall as the climate changes, there is a need to stabilize the riverbanks in and around the community in order to minimize erosion, maintain the integrity of the community forest and reduce the impacts of flash flooding on the community. A feasibility assessment undertaken in the third quarter of FY2015 identified a combined bioengineering and gabion box retention wall to be the most cost-effective option. Construction has been delayed due to political turmoil in Nepal's Terai, but is expected to commence as soon as things calm down.
2. *Response to water shortage:* Though climate projections paint an unclear picture, water shortage is perceived by the community to be their most prominent vulnerability, as scarce water resources are a hardship for both agriculture and household activities. To effectively tackle this problem requires a suite of both short-term adaptation efforts to access more water and long-term adaptation efforts that involve water conservation-oriented landscape management. The community has identified deep well drilling as their priority in the short-term. With support from the project team, they have put in a formal request for such a well to the District Soil Conservation Office, justified by the vulnerability assessment. Official approval is pending, with construction expected to take place during FY2016.
3. *Agroforestry systems:* In order to support both ecosystem and livelihood resilience, agroforestry systems will be strengthened. This activity will support livelihood diversification to an activity that is less natural resource intense, takes advantage of the benefits of community forestry and helps protect the integrity of the ecosystems of the forest itself. Though a firm decision has yet to be taken, beekeeping and honey production is one likely candidate.

In Q3 of FY2015, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific and RECOFTC ran a training workshop for DFO officials and community members to help them understand the linkages on conducting vulnerability assessment and identifying adaptation interventions so that they could make more informed decisions regarding climate adaptive community forestry management. The team then supported the DFO officials to incorporate climate change adaptation into Bishnupur's Community Forest Operational Plan.

Project activities have been slightly delayed over the course of the year as a result of the ongoing earthquakes in Nepal that began in April 2015 combined with the unrest in Nepal's Terai region following the adoption of the new constitution in Q4 of FY2015. As such, the implementation of adaptation options will now begin in Q1 of FY2016. In any case, it is expected that the options will be implemented and operational throughout FY2016, with learning visits to the demonstration site planned for the second half of FY2016.

4.2 PROJECT PREPARATION WITH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

REDUCING THE VULNERABILITY OF CAMBODIAN RURAL LIVELIHOODS, CAMBODIA



A community meeting to discuss alternate livelihoods options for landless women. As part of the design of the Cambodia Rural Livelihoods project USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific piloted application of the Online Sourcebook for Integrating Gender in Climate Change Adaptation Proposals.

During FY2015, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific completed its support to the Government of Cambodia, in collaboration with UNDP, on the design of the project "Strengthening the Resilience of Cambodian Rural Livelihoods and Subnational Government Systems to Climate Risks and Variability," which was prepared for Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding. In Q1 of FY2015, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific finalized the Gender Report and inputs to the Project Document (ProDoc) and UNDP submitted the full ProDoc to the GEF for final approval. In Q2 of FY2015, GEF approved this project for US\$4.57 million in adaptation financing to benefit rural households in Banteay Meanchey and Kampong Thom Provinces. Throughout the project design process, the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific

national gender consultant to the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) team, with the support of the Senior Technical Specialist for Gender and Climate Change Adaptation, piloted application of the *Online Sourcebook for Integrating Gender in Climate Change Adaptation Proposals* (<http://asiapacificadapt.net/gender-sourcebook/>). The resulting ProDoc includes a thorough evaluation of gender considerations as related to project activities, a Gender Action Plan in an annex, and a specific gender activity for empowering vulnerable women through resilient agricultural livelihoods.

The design of this activity embodies USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's approach of integrating gender concerns for "better adaptation". One of the project's aims is to support the most vulnerable people in these rural communities. A gender and social inclusion analysis of climate change vulnerability revealed that the most vulnerable people reside in the poorest households, which are often led by older women as most men and young adult women have migrated for work. By focusing on these poor, and often landless women, the project provides support to those members of society that need it most.

BUILDING SHORELINE RESILIENCE TO PROTECT LOCAL COMMUNITIES, TIMOR LESTE (UNDP)

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has partnered with UNDP in the preparation (PPG team) of a US\$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. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has contributed two international specialists (ecosystem and gender) to the UNDP PPG team. The ecosystems consultant presented and ran discussions at the PPG inception workshop in Dili, Timor Leste. Both consultants then travelled to the country to undertake stakeholder consultations in Dili as well as in the communities along the coast. The ecosystems consultant also covered the coastal adaptation portions of the ProDoc. The consultants delivered final technical annexes for the ProDoc as well as commented of the draft ProDoc in Q4 of FY2015. UNDP is expected to submit the project to GEF for funding in Q1 of FY2016.

In defining its overall role in project preparation, USAID Adapt Asia-



To generate income, communities along Timor Leste's northern coast have taken up salt farming. Cutting of mangroves to use as firewood to cook the salt, leaves coastlines and agricultural lands vulnerable to sea-level rise and related consequences. The Resilient Shorelines project will facilitate access to alternative fuel sources for coastal communities and develop alternative, more resilient livelihoods to support rehabilitation of the crucial mangroves.

Pacific explored the possibility of developing an additional capacity building activity directly with Timor Leste national government institutions to support them in making decisions on site selection for coastal adaptation activities. Unfortunately, given the period of government upheaval as a result of a change of government in the middle of FY2015, as well as the overloaded docket of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (the intended recipients), no arrangement were agreed. Instead, such training was built into the ProDoc and will be executed as a part of the UNDP-implemented, GEF-funded project.

ARAFURA AND TIMOR SEAS STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMS, TIMOR LESTE/INDONESIA (UNDP)

In FY2015, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific began collaboration with UNDP and the Governments of Timor Leste and Indonesia on the preparation of a US\$9.7 million marine biodiversity project in the Arafura and Timor Seas. This project, dubbed ATSEA2, is intended to implement the strategic action plan developed during the first phase of the project (ATSEA1). Parts of the project will focus on improving climate change data and information gathering, as well as ecosystems-based adaptation for integrated coastal management to reduce impacts of climate change both on coastal communities and marine biodiversity.



Seaweed farming, introduced in the 1990s, has become a principle source of income for many coastal communities along the Timor Sea in southern Indonesia's Rote Ndao district. The harvest of these farmers is exposed to a number of threats, including oil spills, pollution from destructive fishing (i.e. cyanide bombs) and increasing water temperatures as a result of climate change. ATSEA2 is being designed to include activities to help these communities develop more resilient livelihoods, through the use of better techniques and diversification.

This activity is unique to USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's portfolio of project design activities in collaboration with UNDP for GEF funding as it is targeting the GEF Trust Fund, particularly the International Water and Biodiversity funds (as opposed to GEF's climate change specific funds). Through this activity, the project is situated to expand our influence by leveraging financing for adaptation that has not previously been earmarked for such a cause. To do so, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is contributing a sizeable team to this sizeable project (it is expected to leverage near US\$100

million in co-financing), including a Marine Biodiversity Specialist, Gender, Social Inclusion and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist, Community Development consultant and the project’s Senior Technical Specialist for Climate Change Adaptation and Gender. The team participated in the regional inception workshop in Dili, Timor Leste, and Jakarta, Indonesia, in April 2015, and began district level stakeholder consultations in Indonesia (Ambon, Maluku Islands; Kupang and Rote Ndao; Nusa Tenggara Timur) in the second and third quarter of FY2015. An initial draft of the Project Document (ProDoc) and the consultant’s reports are expected in the first quarter of FY2016, along with a regional validation workshop. The project preparation team intends to finalize and submit the ProDoc to GEF by Q2, with approval expected shortly thereafter.

4.3 INDICATOR RESULTS SUMMARY

As detailed in Table 7 below, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific met or exceeded performance targets for three USAID standard indicators and two custom indicators under Task 4. Targets were exceeded because of the project’s success in project preparation support in Samoa and Cambodia that resulted in leveraging GEF funding and co-financing by other development partners, including ADB, AusAID, EU, NZAID, and WB, as well as from the respective governments. Correspondingly, more people were benefitted. In addition, the objectives of the project in Samoa also has far reaching effect by integrating climate change adaptation and disaster risk management into national development planning and programming across all sectors while addressing climate resilience of local communities. However, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific was not able to achieve the established target under Indicator IR 2.2 (50%) by the end of FY2015 due to delays in the submission of project proposals by national governments and development partner institutions to the funding agencies. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is confident that this discrepancy will be made up and the project will be able to achieve its target in FY2016. Overall, the variability in achieving the targets under Task 4 is indicative of the demand-driven nature of project preparation activities. In FY2015 the project tried to be responsive to the requests of national governments for technical support, while strategically identifying project preparation activities to meet the PMP targets.

Table 7: FY2015 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN PREPARING FUNDING PROPOSAL INDICATORS RESULTS

Program Element 4.8.2. Clean Productive Environment			
PMP INDICATORS		FY2015 TARGETS	TASK 4 CONTRIBUTION
IR 1.2	Number of institutions with improved capacity to address climate issues as a result of USG assistance	6	6
IR 2.1	Number of climate change adaptation projects with facilitated access to finance	7	7
IR 2.2	Number of facilitated projects with a specific gender component	2	1
IR 2.3	Number of people benefiting from climate change adaptation project approved or in the pipeline as a result of USG assistance	100,000	116,784
IR 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	\$128,006,822
IR 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	2

TASK 5: OVERARCHING PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

5.1 MAINTAIN ROBUST PROJECT AND FINANCIAL REPORTING SYSTEMS

Throughout FY2015, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific developed and submitted quarterly and annual progress reports on the technical progress and accomplishments of the project. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific also provided program support to REO for the 2015 Performance Plan and Report and the OES-EGC indicator reporting. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific implemented the following key activities:

- *Develop and submit quarterly and annual progress reports:* USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific submitted technical progress reports on a quarterly and annual basis describing program implementation, including activities to date, progress towards achieved results and targets, obstacles to program implementation, and other relevant issues.
- *Develop and submit performance monitoring and progress reports:* The USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific team updated the Performance Management Plan (PMP) to reflect activities for FY2015. Based on the PMP, and as part of USAID's Performance Review and Annual Report process, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific submitted Annual Performance Management Progress Reports in accordance with the RDMA/REO's established policies. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific described milestone events that demonstrate progress towards achieving project indicator targets, and highlighted with narrative success stories at the program level. Performance Management Progress Reports consisted of both narrative and quantitative sections with indicators and targets of the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific project.
- *Develop and submit Financial Reports:* USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific developed pipeline analyses and financial reports: (i) on a quarterly basis; (ii) before each contract modification; and (iii) accruals information no later than the 20th of March, June, and September of FY2015, covering the periods through the end of the contract. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific prepared financial reports on a quarterly basis, which described project expenses by task.

5.2 COORDINATION WITH BILATERAL MISSIONS AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

FY2015 was a particularly effective year for coordinating and maintaining good relations with USAID bilateral missions and other development partners across the Asia and Pacific regions. In coordination with USAID RDMA, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific made in-person briefings to USAID missions in India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Timor Leste and U.S. Embassies in Suva, Fiji, and Apia, Samoa, where excellent working relationships have been nurtured over the life of the project. The purpose of these briefings was to inform and update the missions on ongoing project activities and understand their own priorities and activities. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific routinely invites the missions to participate in project activities and events and periodically provides them with electronic updates of project activities. As a result, representatives from the USAID/Indonesia and USAID/Philippines participated in the pilot-testing of the UCCAR training course. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific, through RDMA, maintained open lines of communication with USAID/Bangladesh to further explore collaborating with the Mission on conceptualizing its new five-year strategy by supporting a climate finance situation analysis. Given the significant delay in starting up this activity, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific will only be able to commit very limited resources to this activity.

Further, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific was particularly successful during FY2015 in partnering with UNDP on project preparation and capacity building initiatives in target countries. The collaboration with UNDP supported the preparation of climate change adaptation projects in Cambodia, Indonesia and Timor Leste that leveraged more than US\$100 million in climate adaptation financing in FY2015.

In addition, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific partnered with ICLEI - South Asia and SPREP to organize two workshops, and with UNDP in organizing the ECCA mini-workshop as part of the Economics of Climate Change Adaptation (ECCA).

Finally, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific supported the design and continues to collaborate in the Pacific region with UNDP, GIZ, USP, PIFS, SPC, and SPREP in implementing a Pacific-Cost-Benefit Analysis (P-CBA) regional program to strengthen the capacities of Pacific Island government officials (as discussed under Task 3) in carrying out cost-benefit analysis of public investment projects in an effort to enhance the effectiveness of climate investment.

5.3 DEVELOPMENT OF OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION TOOLS AND ACTIVITIES

Throughout FY2015, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has used a variety of methods and tools to share lessons learned around the region. In addition to a quarterly newsletter updating project activities, which is distributed to project stakeholders, and contributions to the RDMA Regional Environment Office’s Weekly Update, this year has seen a number of successful outreach activities. Fruitful regional discussions pertinent to project activities have emerged from the project-supported APAN Community of Practitioners e-discussions.

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific will continue effective communications in FY2016 to ensure high visibility of project activities. These activities will be undertaken in close collaboration with USAID RDMA’s Communications and Outreach team, supporting visibility of project activities through multiple channels, including social media.



A new urban course is about to start! Here’s an update on what we’re doing to help cities in the region adapt to climate change.

WE HELP CITIES TURN STRATEGIES INTO PROJECTS

Learn how USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is helping city officials in Asia and the Pacific better understand climate risks and design bankable adaptation projects in [a new urban course](#).



Motorist in an auto-rickshaw riding along downtown Jakarta, Indonesia during the rainy season in January 2015. Photo credit: Indigo Skies Photography, via Flickr

WE SUPPORT LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific supports local officials, like Mayor Alfredo Coro from Del Carmen, Philippines, where coping with extreme weather events has become a way of life. [Learn about his challenges](#) in accessing adaptation finance and how we’re helping him to overcome them.



USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific communications published in FY2015.

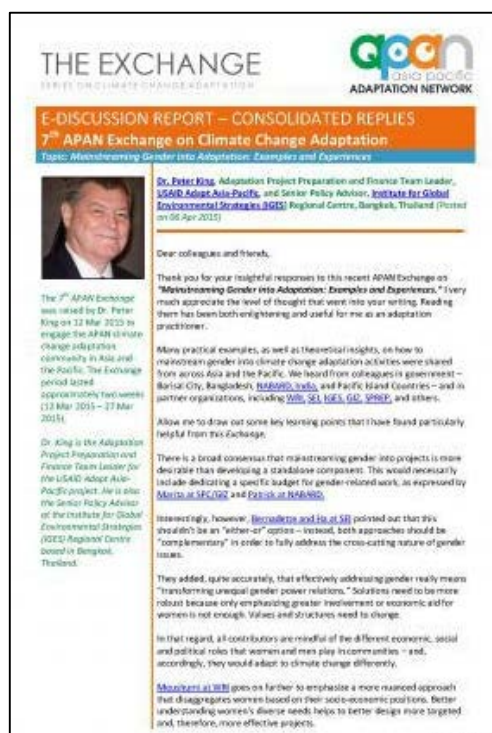
INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES & USAID FORWARD PRIORITIES

During FY2015, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has continued to address the need to better incorporate gender concerns throughout the development of climate change adaptation projects. The project has adopted a “beyond mainstreaming” approach that surpasses the mainstreaming of gender with the inclusion of sensitive targets and indicators into the project’s results framework. This approach builds on the underlying tenet that women are a source of unrealized solutions in adapting to climate change. It involves providing expert support to analyze the problem through a gender-sensitive lens and design specific, budgeted actions that respond to those climate change-related challenges that can best be addressed through efforts that promote gender equality and female empowerment.

In FY2014 USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific, in collaboration with Development Training Services (dTS), developed a sourcebook for use by project developers, based on rigorous research on defining gender activities within climate change adaptation projects. As adaptation projects are usually developed around affected sectors, the sourcebook is organized to provide detailed information by sector, useful for gender experts as well as novices. The sourcebook was publicly launched on the Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) web portal in December of 2015 (see section 1.2). USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has been promoting the sourcebook and its utility at relevant events around the region, with a number of institutions, including the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) in Bangladesh, showing particular interest.

In FY2015, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific piloted use of the sourcebook on projects developed in Cambodia and Timor Leste with UNDP, and Nepal with RECOFTC, all of which incorporate specific, budgeted solutions aimed at supporting women to adapt and have either been approved for funding or are in the final stages. The sourcebook has proved useful and thorough in treatment of gender concerns across the elements of project design. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is presently providing expert support for the preparation of a project in the Arafura and Timor Seas region – including Timor Leste and Indonesia (with UNDP). As for building gender-sensitive adaptation capacity, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is supporting female empowerment in adaptation at the community level in Nepal (with RECOFTC). In FY2016, the project will work across Tasks 3 and 4 to incorporate specific guidance on the treatment of gender considerations within the development of USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific’s final project preparation capacity building program.

The greatest challenge for USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific in developing better adaptation designs through gender consideration is changing the mindsets of the people responsible for project design. Local level actors, such as NGOs and local governments, generally have the understanding and conviction to improve social inclusion, particularly through female empowerment. At the national and international levels, however often lip-service is paid to the issues, but real conviction and on-ground action is limited. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is working to address this challenge and build practitioner awareness around the benefits of gender-responsive climate change adaptation through presentations in such events as the International Conference of Women’s Asia Pacific Regional Conference in November of 2014 and the Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific Conference in February of 2015.



The APAN 7th Exchange focusing on mainstreaming gender in CCA received the most email responses from the community.

KEY IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

The project faced certain challenges and delays in implementing its activities throughout the year. The USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific team was able to troubleshoot most of the issues and come up with strategies to mitigate potential delays. The project has therefore been able to overall complete the tasks outlined in the FY2015 work plan and meet or exceed its targets. However, with the project entering its final year, and with time remaining on the contract becoming short, some implementation issues discussed below, pose risks that may not be mitigated prior to the end of the project. These challenges however, are not projected to affect the achievement of the overall goals and targets of the project. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific will continue to try and mitigate these challenges in the final year of the project. The three major implementation challenges include:

- At the recommendation of the project's 2014 mid-term evaluation, successful implementation of new priority activities initiated in FY2015 and to be continued in FY2016 in the Pacific with regional organizations, such as PIFS, SPREP, and USP, as well as selected national governments, will be much more dependent on the vicissitudes of these institutions, as compared to previous activities with international development partners, which will potentially impact the timely submission of deliverables and ultimately the achievement of indicator targets. As the activities progress, the project will be coordinate closely with USAID, and will duly notify the COR if a realignment of activities may be necessary to adjust to on-the ground realities.
- The lack of support from APAN/UNEP to undertake the proposed Stock Taking exercise, as a vehicle to reinvigorate the ongoing working relationship with USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific, complicates the potential for the present project-based partnership to play a longer-term role in continuing to carry out (i.e. sustain) the types of support provided to APAN/UNEP over the life of the project.
- We understood that USAID/RDMA faced multiple challenges in providing financial support to Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA) through GIZ and ultimately decided to not move forward with this approach. This made it more difficult for USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific to expand its working relationship and support to CDIA as a potential project preparation facility for the future sustainability of the project.

SUSTAINABILITY OF USAID ADAPT ASIA-PACIFIC

The long-term sustainability of project-supported activities in furtherance of the project goal and objectives has been and will remain in the forefront of project planning and execution as we enter our final year. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has been actively seeking opportunities, as part of ongoing project activities, which will enhance opportunities for the project's sustainability. Discussion below represents our comprehensive approach to long-term sustainability of the project. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific defines its long-term sustainability in terms of three principal elements:

- Sustainability of the Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN);
- Strengthening government and intuitional capacities in the region; and
- Establishment and strengthening of institutional arrangements to support national governments in the region to prepare climate change adaptation projects.

THE ASIA-PACIFIC ADAPTATION NETWORK (APAN)

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has been assisting in strengthening APAN as a leading regional CCA platform that can continue to promote project-provided technical support, particularly in the area of climate financing and project preparation, beyond the life of the project. As discussed in the text of Task 1 and in the preceding implementation issues section, this has not worked out as planned with the inability to carry out the proposed Stock Taking exercise. During the final year of the project, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific will continue to assist APAN with strengthening its long-term capacity, with the intention to make a final effort to engage APAN and/or its affiliates in discussions leading to a continuation of project-supported activities, as follows:

- Knowledge sharing and management capacity, as well as strengthening of outreach;
- Organizational arrangements and core functions streamlined with the project's assistance; and
- The knowledge base of adaptation finance and its accessibility increased with the project's knowledge products made available to the community and practitioners in need.

One of the key factors required by USAID/RDMA for its continued support is that APAN become a sustainable network by evolving into a multi-partner-supported network. This means not only that the network should receive funding and advice from multiple funding agencies, but it should also be able to address multifaceted challenges of CCA. So far, APAN has been focusing more on mainstreaming adaptation into national development plans and addressing key thematic issues – finance, technology, and a few other sectors. While access to finance will remain a key thematic issue for many developing countries in APAN's network, APAN should consider diversifying its technical portfolio in order to remain relevant by adding potential thematic areas such as:

- Technology issues in the context of supporting the global mechanism Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN);
- National policy integration (NAPs, mitigation, DRR, SDGs);
- Monitoring and evaluation; and
- Subnational adaptation policy addressing urban resiliency.

As APAN continues to build its knowledge management capacity with the support from USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific, the sustainability of USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's contributions would be measured by how the project's knowledge products (legacy assets) will continue to remain available and relevant and shared through APAN and its affiliates; and how the knowledge generated for improving access to finance can lead/shift to implementing needed thematic adaptation measures where positive impacts will be materialized on the ground. Post-project, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific-

generated knowledge products such as V&A and Project Preparation Guidelines, Gender Sourcebook, etc. will continue to be disseminated by the APAN Regional Hub and used by APAN's more than 6,000 adaptation practitioner members. APAN can verify use of this information through periodic surveys of members regarding which tools they use.

By ensuring that APAN evolves into a multi-donor knowledge management facility for the whole Asia-Pacific region, multiple donors are encouraged to contribute financial resources and knowledge products to APAN. The APAN Forum will remain as the premier knowledge sharing event for the region. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific knowledge products will remain on the APAN website and can be used to develop new knowledge products, especially through future USAID engagement.

STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENT CAPACITIES IN THE REGION

Selected governments in the Asia-Pacific region at all levels – local, provincial, and national, as well as regional networks or coordinating entities, are being strengthened to better understand, analyze, and prepare themselves to become more resilient to climate change impacts through a number of capacity building efforts.

DIRECT SUPPORT TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES THROUGH FACILITATING TWINNING ARRANGEMENTS

As a follow-on to the development of a National Climate Change Research Strategy and Plan to guide all future national CCA and resilience efforts, the project continues to facilitate a 'twinning arrangement' between the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). Both organizations have signed Letters of Cooperation to build CCA factors into a 'reef-to-ridge' vulnerability and adaptation assessment of the watershed containing the Royal Princess Sirindhorn International Environmental Park (SIEP) in Petchaburi province. It is our goal that this demonstration will serve as a learning and interpretation model for countries in the region.

TAILORED CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

There are a number of smaller, individually-tailored, capacity building efforts that have taken place to date. In Samoa, we have developed the Government's capacity to conduct vulnerability and adaptation assessments and "whole-of-country" responses in coastal zones. We are also working with the Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC) on a Women-Only Community Forest Users' Group (CFUG) in Nepal to demonstrate how CCA (and mitigation) strategies for accessing climate financing can be integrated into forest management as a model for other five-year forest management plans that are submitted by the 18,000 CFUGs in Nepal for approval by the Ministry of Forests.



USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific and RECOFTC conducted a workshop to incorporate CCA and gender considerations into Bishnupur's Community Forest Operational Plan.

GOVERNMENT TRAINING SUPPORT PROGRAM

Through this program USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific provides financial assistance to well-matched, deserving, and needy mid- to senior-level government officials in the Asia and Pacific region. With these scholarships, they are able to attend relevant, high-quality training programs on climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and building greater climate resilience at training institutions (e.g.

ADPC, RECOFTC, etc.) and universities (Oxford, the Hague Academy, etc.) around the world. Thus far, we have supported training for 36 carefully selected government officials; by the end of the project, we hope to have appreciably increased that number with those officials acting as CCA ‘champions’ back in their home offices.

DEVELOPING STANDALONE TRAINING PROGRAMS

The project is developing two related, but distinct, sets of training materials, workshops, and case studies coupled with expert mentoring support on the Economics of CCA (ECCA) and on Cost-Benefit Analysis in the Pacific (P-CBA). Both the ECCA and the P-CBA work is being done in close collaboration with the UNDP’s CCA efforts in the region as well as Yale University in the former case, and the University of the South Pacific in the latter with additional support provided by the GIZ (German Development Assistance agency). The goal here is to help countries in the region integrate CCA costs (as well as the ‘costs of inaction’) into their national development strategies and appraisal processes for selecting projects and making development investments. For sustainability, the project is also exploring making the training widely available through cooperation with the UN University and regional training institutions, such as AIT, that would incorporate ECCA case studies and other materials into their existing training courses.

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is also developing CCA and resilience-building training materials in the urban context for dissemination across secondary cities and towns in the region with the East West Center of the University of Hawaii. In FY2015 the course materials were completed and tested through three pilot training programs in Indonesia and the Philippines. One of the key modalities for the pilot-test phase was partnering with a host institution for delivering the course. In Indonesia, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific partnered with the Institute of Technology Bandung (ITB) and Yayasan Kota Kita (YKK) and in Philippines the training was delivered in partnership with PLANADES a part of the School of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Philippines. In all cases the local partner greatly enhanced the training, tailoring the course materials to the local context, providing relevant and customized data sets and case studies, and linking the training with the national and local laws, policies, and regulatory requirements for urban climate change adaptation. The course materials are now being finalized with all training materials, a guidebook for participants, a guide for trainers, and case studies and exercises.

Finally, as mentioned above, drawing on the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is in the initial stages of developing a training program on project preparation incorporating the lessons from previous project preparation (Task 4) activities, as well as tools, guides, and methods developed over the last four years.

PROMOTING PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific actively seeks opportunities for cooperation among country governments to learn from each other’s experiences and best practices. The project has facilitated cooperation on CCA among Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam through a cooperative initiative that brought the three countries together for case study-based training on preparation of a vulnerability assessment in Thailand’s Petchaburi watershed. In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and NRCT, it is envisaged that the three countries will support preparation of a vulnerability and adaptation assessment for a portion of the Petchaburi watershed, recommending adaptation interventions for planned economic development and resource conservation initiatives in the watershed, and preparing a training course and interpretive program at the Sirindhorn International Environmental Park in Petchaburi. It is anticipated that the training will lead to a formal, longer-term cooperative program among the three countries.

SUPPORTING PROJECT PREPARATION FACILITIES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

The extent to which USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific’s project preparation activities are sustained after the project completion date in 2016 will depend in part on the capacities built up in the 27

targeted countries. For this reason, in 2015, considerable effort continues to be devoted to bridging the capacity building, knowledge management, and project preparation components of the project. Specific project preparation capacity building is being provided to NABARD (India) and ICCTF (Indonesia).

ASSISTANCE TO ICCTF IN INDONESIA

In the case of the Indonesia Climate Change Trust Fund (ICCTF), USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has assisted with:

- Preparation of project prioritization and selection criteria;
- Development of a monitoring and evaluation system for adaptation projects;
- Preparation of several small-scale projects;
- Funding and sustainability strategy for ICCTF; and
- Supporting prioritization and preparation of several climate change adaptation projects for financing under a USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific-facilitated USAID/Indonesia \$5 million contribution to ICCTF.

Throughout this assistance, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has provided *ad hoc* advice to ICCTF Secretariat staff on a wide range of implementation issues, leading up to the launch and ICCTF role in implementation of the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (RAN-API).

ASSISTANCE TO NABARD

USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is providing technical assistance to NABARD, Asia-Pacific's only NIE with accreditation with the UNFCCC Adaptation Fund (AF) and recently the Green Climate Fund (GCF), in three principal areas of project preparation:

- Formulation of a methodology to carry out climate change adaptation vulnerability assessments;
- Development of a tool to appraise projects for financing under the Adaptation Fund (AF) in NABARD's core business areas of agriculture and natural resource management; and
- Assistance to NABARD and its National Executing Entities (EEs) in the preparation of Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) project proposals for submission to AF for financing.



DRCS, an EE of NABARD, conducts a community consultation workshop with villagers in West Bengal, India. With support from USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's intensive, hands-on assistance, NABARD has more AF project approvals than any of the other 20 accredited AF NIEs worldwide.

Over the course of FY2015 the project worked closely with NABARD and three individual EEs to strengthen and finalize two CCA project proposals and one project concept. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific assisted in ensuring that the three project submissions are compliant with AF guidelines and respond satisfactorily to previous round(s) of AF observations and comments, as necessary, particularly with respect to the preparation of project log frames and their alignment with AF guidelines, identification and development of appropriate CCA interventions, project implementation arrangements, development of project financial plans, and sustainability mechanisms. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is also working with NABARD to put in place a more rigorous process for selecting and developing project proposals and for developing a methodology for vulnerability assessments that can be used by NABARD and other stakeholders engaged in implementing CCA projects. Through this hands-on approach, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is building sustainable capacity with NABARD and its EEs to develop CCA project that can measure up to the requirements of the AF and similarly to other vertical funds in the future.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Finally, with respect to sustaining the project's principal elements, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific sees CDIA as a key project preparation facility for Asia. The project continued to work with CDIA in the Philippines and India during 2015. In the Pacific region, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) is seen as crucial climate financing coordination body, whose capacity the project continues to strengthen. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific has also agreed to provide technical assistance in project preparation in conjunction with SPREP's recent accreditation with both the Adaptation and Green Climate Funds and the Pacific Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM) being established in SPREP and SPC under the regional Pilot Program on Climate Resilience, implemented by the Asian Development Bank to support preparation of project investment proposals.

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

First, taking gender considerations into account across all of our activities has become a hallmark of USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific's capacity building program. Just one example of this is the Gender Sourcebook that has been developed to explain how to consider the differential CC impacts that fall upon women (as only one of several 'vulnerable populations') and viable coping strategies they can employ to minimize those impacts and build greater resilience. The sourcebook is a web-based, interactive 'living' resource that cuts across all economic sectors in various ecological settings for use in any CCA project proposal. The project is in discussion with the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), an independent university based in Dhaka, Bangladesh, to collaborate in developing a one-day module on gender and climate change that can be used in various short courses delivered by ICCCAD. The second cross-cutting theme that runs through all of our activities and is integrated into our objectives is to create greater integration and synergies between our capacity building efforts and those of our project proposal preparation team's CCA and resilience-building activities to help countries in the region access climate financing. Thus, our current design of a capacity building course for national government officials on managing project preparation, which builds on the project's country-specific, on-ground experience to date, is oriented toward and contributes to that ultimate goal.

WAY FORWARD

The way forward for USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific for FY2016, the project's final year, encompasses five key tenets:

- Satisfactorily and systematically complete all ongoing activities or transition and close out activities that are mid-stream in a well-managed, timely fashion. Only a very limited number of new activities will be initiated during the final year, such as possibly supporting the USAID Bangladesh mission with undertaking a climate finance situation analysis and Bangladesh's International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) in disseminating the project-developed online Gender Sourcebook.
- Identify institutional hosts for each of the project's major ongoing capacity building initiatives to develop/tailor the training modules and take on the responsibility for delivering the training courses on a regular basis following the end of the project for long-term sustainability. Courses include ECCA, urban climate change adaptation and resilience (UCCAR), the currently under development project preparation course, and the Pacific-Cost Benefit Analysis (P-CBA).
- Strengthen the ongoing collaboration with the Manila-based, Asian Development Bank (ADB)-linked Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA) in order to support the continuation and institutionalization of the ongoing project preparation facility activities and functions in Asia provided by USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific with required strong support of USAID/RDMA.
- Continue to strive to strengthen the institutional partnership between USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific, USAID/RDMA, and APAN/UNEP with the view to building the long-term relationship necessary to sustain project-supported activities after the close of the project, while supporting APAN with production and dissemination of knowledge products, expanding the project's community of practice (CoP), and upgrading the project's website.
- Support USAID/RDMA in developing a strategy which builds on the project's experiences and lessons learned to date to ensure USAID/RDMA's continued engagement in the Pacific region. This will be particularly important for several reasons: climate financing will continue to be a pressing issue for the Pacific region in the foreseeable future; the enduring interest of the US Department of State in the Pacific region, as evidenced by its continued financial support of the project; the ramping up of the Green Climate Fund (GCF); and the initiation of a new USAID/Philippines climate change adaptation program with a sizeable climate finance component.

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