

German Government co-funds new Coastal Change Toolkit:

COASTAL CHANGE IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS: A Guide to Support Community Understanding of Coastal Erosion and Flooding Issues

In November 2014 a „Coastal Change Toolkit“ was published that was developed by a wide range of experts and funded by the German Government and a number of partner organisations.

The regional program “Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region” (CCCPIR) is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. Since 2011 the SPC/GIZ CCCPIR programme is implementing climate change activities in 12 Pacific Island Countries (PICs), aiming at strengthening the capacities of PICs and regional organisations to cope with the impacts of climate change that will affect communities across the region. (For more information see: <http://www.spc.int/en/our-work/climate-change/cccpir.html>).

The Coastal Change Toolkit

The new Coastal Change Toolkit responds to the emerging needs of many communities in the Pacific Islands whose members are expressing concerns about storm damage, sea-level rise, and the frequency and severity of coastal flooding events and shoreline erosion. With existing tools, communities have been able to identify the potential impacts of threats and hazards to the coastal zone. However, understanding the complex interaction between natural coastal systems and human development in order to determine effective responses requires further technical assistance, which is often not accessible.

The Toolkit focuses on helping communities understanding changes to their coastlines, and causes for these change. It supports decision-making to reduce the impacts of coastal hazards such as flooding and erosion on communities.

The toolkit is divided into two volumes:

- Volume One: “Outreach” provides detailed outreach materials to support an understanding of how coastlines work and what causes coastal flooding and shoreline change (natural and human-related). It also provides examples of case studies and community stories from around the Pacific region that illustrate key concepts about coastal change: (http://www.pimpac.org/images/Coastal%20Change%20Toolkit_V1_Final.pdf).

- Volume Two: “Planning” provides participatory processes that enable community members to use local knowledge to understand changes in their coastline and support decision-making that is best for local situations and capacity:
(http://www.pimpac.org/images/Coastal%20Change%20Toolkit%20_V2_Final.pdf).

The toolkit thus provides a step-by-step process to carry out outreach and conduct planning to select a suite of appropriate actions that, in combination, address local coastal hazard issues. Alternatively, the individual volumes can be used separately to support existing community resource-management processes such as raising awareness or completing vulnerability assessments.

Background

This Coastal Change Toolkit was developed through a wide collaboration of partners in several countries and regions to support community based management or adaptation planning. It builds up on previous work undertaken in the region. In 2010 Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), through the Micronesia Challenge Initiative (www.micronesiachallenge.org), developed a climate change tool to foster community based adaptation. MCT convened natural-resource managers, community leaders, climate scientists, and experts from various sectors to determine what a community based tool should look like. Through this collaboration a tool—Adapting to a Changing Climate: Guide to Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) and Management Planning—was developed in Micronesia and further adapted for the Coral Triangle Region (Found at: <https://weadapt.org/knowledge-base/adaptation-training/adapting-to-a-changing-climate-in-micronesian-communities>).

Further Information:

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Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region – CCCPIR
Press Release – 02-2015

Photos (all photos by Fenno Brunken, GIZ):



Douglas Ramsay (right) explaining changes in the coastline to participants



Presentation of the community mapping exercise by community members

Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region – CCCPIR
Press Release – 02-2015



Ilieb Olkeril, Koror State presenting Palau Rock Island coastal erosion issues to workshop participants



Erosion due to sea wall to protect composting toilet at tourism spot in Palau