

Country Name	<b>The Project for Construction of the Pacific Climate Change Center</b>
Independent State of Samoa	

**I. Project Outline**

Background	<p>The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is an international agency established in 1993 by 26 nations and territories (including 14 island countries called Pacific Island Countries, or PICs) with the headquarters in Apia, the capital of Samoa. As one of the key agencies promoting regional efforts on climate change in the Pacific region, SPREP had undertaken extensive efforts in this field, including the development of climate change strategies, the formulation and implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in collaboration with development partners, and human resource development aimed at increasing its voice on the international stage.</p> <p>The workload of SPREP had risen sharply as support from international agencies and development partners became larger and more frequent. In response to this, SPREP increased its number of staff. However, there was a lack of accommodation space for staff and sufficient training facilities to conduct training, and therefore, there were urgent needs for expansion.</p>					
Objectives of the Project	<p>To strengthen the function of SPREP as the lead agency on climate change in the Pacific region and to develop human resources in the region, through the construction of the Pacific Climate Change Center (PCCC), thereby contributing to the enhancement of countermeasures to address climate change in the region.</p>					
Contents of the Project	<p>1. Project Site: Apia  2. Japanese side  &lt;Facilities&gt; Construction of the Pacific Climate Change Center (PCCC) (Floor Area 1,892 .50m<sup>2</sup>)  a) The main functions will be a training and multipurpose room with a maximum capacity of 90 people and a climate change management office.  b) Environmentally-friendly facilities with various energy/water saving technologies including solar panel, Energy Monitoring System, rainwater collection system and water-saving toilet.  &lt;Equipment&gt;  Smart board, Projector, Recessed screen, High performance computer, Plotter, Server rack, UPS, Data storage, General-use computer, etc.  3. Samoa side: Securing the project site, clearing of proposed construction site, Installation of additional phone lines, Procurement and installation of interface for existing server, Procurement of general furniture and fixtures not covered by Japanese cooperation, Planting and landscaping around buildings subject to Japanese cooperation, etc.</p>					
Project Period	E/N Date	July 29, 2016	Completion Date (ex-ante)	July 2018 (24 months)	Completion Date (actual)	August 28, 2019 (31 months) (Start of operation)
	G/A Date	February 17, 2017				
Project Cost	E/N Grant Limit / G/A Grant Limit: 962 million yen, Actual Grant Amount: 913 million yen					
Executing Agency	Ministry of Finance, Independent State of Samoa Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Note: After completion of the project, SPREP act as the managing and operating body for the facilities, while all the facilities remain as the property of the Government of Samoa, in accordance with due arrangement and agreement to be set forth between the Government of Samoa and SPREP.					
Contracted Agencies	Main Contractor(s): Joint venture with KONOIKE CONSTRUCTION CO., LTD as the representative Main Consultant(s): Joint venture with Yamashita Sekkei Inc. as representative					

**II. Result of the Evaluation**

1 Relevance/Coherence
[Relevance] <Consistency with the Development Policy of Samoa at the Time of Ex-Ante Evaluation > The project was consistent with the development policy of Samoa at the time of ex-ante evaluation. In the Pacific region, the development of the “Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific” (2017-2030) as an integrated regional strategy was underway, led by various regional international organizations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and others. <Consistency with the Development Needs of Samoa at the Time of Ex-Ante Evaluation > The project was consistent with the development needs of Samoa at the time of ex-ante evaluation. As stated in the “Background” above, SPREP lacked sufficient training facilities to conduct training, and therefore, there were urgent needs for expansion. <Appropriateness of Project Design/Approach> The project design/approach was appropriate. No problem attributed to the project design/approach was confirmed. <Evaluation Result>

In light of the above, the relevance of the project is ③<sup>1</sup>.

[Coherence]

<Consistency with Japan's ODA Policy at the Time of Ex-Ante Evaluation>

The project was consistent with the Japan's ODA policy to Samoa at the time of ex-ante evaluation. The Fukushima-Iwaki Declaration, adopted at the 7th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM 7) in 2015, emphasized the need for a comprehensive and long-term approach to climate change. In response, Japan, in collaboration with SPREP, expressed its intention to provide comprehensive support, and referred to the development of the PCCC and support for human resource development and capacity building on climate change in the Pacific region as a whole.

<Collaboration/Coordination with JICA's other interventions>

Any collaboration/coordination between the project and JICA's other intervention was not clearly planned at the time of ex-ante evaluation (or during the project period). Nonetheless, a technical cooperation project called the "The Project for Capacity Building on Climate Resilience in the Pacific" (CBCRP) was commenced to strengthen the PCCC capacity building function in the same year as the PCCC's official opening. This collaboration has been still continuing to this day – through a technical cooperation to strengthen the innovation function of the PCCC (2024 - 2027).

<Cooperation with other institutions/ Coordination with international framework>

Any cooperation/coordination with other development partners, etc. was not clearly planned at the time of ex-ante evaluation (or during the project period). However, the Government of Ireland played a crucial role as one of the development partners in supporting SPREP. SPREP successfully secured funding from the Government of Ireland for the installation of the remaining portion of solar panels on its Rooftop Solar System, which helped the PCCC building achieve its target of running on 100% renewable energy in 2022.

Other development partners provide support to PCCC. For instance, PCCC receives staffing support through a grant agreement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) of New Zealand, as well as investment from the Government of Australia through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to strengthen the key services of the Centre.

<Evaluation Result>

In light of the above, the relevance of the project is ③.

[Evaluation Result of Relevance/Coherence]

In the light above, the relevance/coherence of the project is ③.

2 Effectiveness/Impact

<Effectiveness>

The project objectives were mostly achieved as planned.

Regarding the utilization rate (Indicator 1), the number of in-person meetings is 200 in 2022, which means that the utilization rate would be 27%<sup>2</sup>. In case where virtual meetings which trainers utilized the training/multipurpose rooms are included, the utilization rate would be 53%. Thus, the rate in 2022 mostly achieved the target, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

The number of beneficiaries under the demonstration effect of environmental performance of the PCCC (Indicator 2) consists of two indicators. Indicator 2-1, "Number of trainees visiting SPREP headquarters," was achieved with 1,560 face-to-face training participants/trainees in 2022, compared to the target of 1,400. Data regarding Indicator 2-2 "Number of portal site visits" was not available. Based on the above, Indicator 1 and Indicator 2-1 are considered to be achieved and Indicator 2-2 is unverifiable, and considering the importance of each indicator, the two more important indicators have been achieved, thus the quantitative indicators were mostly achieved.

It appears that the increased visibility and profile of PCCC as a Centre of excellence and the services provided through its four key functions (knowledge brokerage, applied research, capacity building and training, and innovation), networking and collaborations with other organizations have contributed to the use of the PCCC.

The facilities and equipment have been maintained well, and the physical conditions have been good with only a few minor issues at the time of ex-post evaluation.

As the qualitative effects, 1) improvement of SPREP's capacity on the regional actions against climate change, 2) strengthening of SPREPs collaboration ability with development partners, and 3) promotion of utilization of climate change funds by SPREP and affiliated nations were expected. According to PCCC/SPREP, those qualitative effects were produced.

As for 1), it is expected to bring about strengthened capacity through its four key functions and to present science-based evidence for United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations, to support the delivery of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP), and to enhance climate change research capacity within the region.

As for 2), investments have been made by various development partners, such as MFAT of New Zealand, Irish fund, Fonds Pacifique (France), Climate Finance Access Network, Australian Research Council, and JICA technical cooperation projects.

As for 3), PCCC has made efforts in securing financial support from various partners, including the Government of Australia's contribution of 5 million Australian dollars for a specific period. Additionally, PCCC has ongoing communication with the Government of New Zealand, has been reaching out to multiple partners, universities, development partners, the UN agencies, and NGOs based on a Partnerships and Communications Strategy and Action Plan.

<Impact>

PCCC has worked towards innovations in climate change action through initiatives such as virtual Pacific Climate Change Innovation Exhibition, and the Partnership Framework for Innovation.

As for the socially vulnerable people/groups, the PCCC's four key functions have contributed to improving awareness and capacity among marginalized groups, specifically girls and youth. As for the social inclusion, PCCC's delivery of training on

<sup>1</sup> ④ : very high, ③ : high, ② : moderately low, ① : low

<sup>2</sup> Assuming the number of working days is 250, if the facilities are fully utilized, the number of meetings would be 250 days x 3 rooms = 750 meetings. So, 75/750=10% in 2021 and 200/750=27% in 2022. If the virtual meetings are included the calculation would be 257/750=34% and 398/750=53%.

Social Inclusion and Gender through its capacity-building function indicates that the project has taken measures to foster inclusivity and promote gender equality.

No negative impacts on natural environment have been observed.

<Evaluation Result>

In light of the above, the effectiveness/impact of the project is ③.

#### Quantitative Effects

Indicator	Baseline 2015 Baseline Year	Target Year 2021 3 Years after Completion	Actual 2021 2 Years after Completion	Actual 2022 3 Years after Completion	Source
1 Utilization rate of Training/Multi purpose room (%)	0	61	1. In-person meetings: 10% 2. In-person meetings and virtual events: 34% *1 Number of in-person meetings December 2020 to May 2021 – 75 in-person meetings *2 Number of virtual events hosted from the PCCC between December 2020 to May 2021 – 182 virtual events	1. In-person meetings: 27% 2. In-person meetings and virtual events: 53% *1 Number of in-person meetings January to December 2022 – 200 meetings *2 Number of virtual events hosted from the PCCC between January to December 2022 – 198 virtual events	PCCC Booking system and IT record
2 Number of beneficiaries under the demonstration effect of environmental performance of the PCCC (person/ year)*  1) The number of people/trainees who visit PCCC 2) The number of people who visit Pacific Climate Change Portal	1) 0 2) 0	1) 1,400 2) 23,000	1. Number of visitors and face to face participants/students – 809 visitors (Number of participants in virtual and blended trainings between December 2020 to May 2021 – 16,496) 2. Data not obtained	1. Number of visitors and face to face participants/students – 1,560 visitors (Number of participants in virtual and blended trainings between December 2020 to May 2021 – 23,130 participants) 2. Data not obtained	PCCC Booking system and IT record

\* The details of target figures are as follows:

- 1) The sum (roundup) of: A) The number of people who will experience and learn from the PCCC's environmental design by using PCCC for training is 708 per year and B) Trainees of Training and Education Centre (TEC), SPREP who visit PCCC will experience and learn about environmental design. The number will be 685 person per year.
- 2) The number of people who will learn about the PCCC's environmental design by visiting the Pacific Climate Change Portal (<http://www.pacificclimatechange.net/>) run by SPREP. 23,000 people visit the Pacific Climate Change Portal annually. By posting relevant information on the front page of the portal site, the visitors can learn about the PCCC's environmental design, therefore the number of annual visitors is deemed as the number of learners.

#### 3 Efficiency

Although the project cost was within the plan (the ratio against the plan: 95%), the project period exceeded the plan (the ratio against the plan: 130%). The project period exceeded the plan due to procedural reasons: delay of construction because of poor management for workers.

	Project Cost (Japanese side only, yen)	Project Period (months)
Plan (ex-ante)	962 million	24
Actual	913 million	31
Ratio (%)	95	130

Outputs were produced as planned.

In the light above, the efficiency of the project is ③.

#### 4 Sustainability

##### < Institutional/Organizational Aspect>

The PCCC building, along with six other buildings on the SPREP campus, has been managed by the Human Resources & Administration Department, which includes a Property Service Officer with six staff members responsible for campus maintenance. The number of staff has not been sufficient, and the lack of long-term support and commitment has been one of the major challenges PCCC has faced, and there have been no clear plans to address these challenges. This raises concerns about the continuity of staff and resources required for proper operation and maintenance of facilities/equipment. SPREP's administrative staff has been funded by core funds, mainly contributions from member countries, but a shortage of core funds has always been an issue, and ways to address this are being considered at the SPREP General Meeting.

##### <Technical Aspect>

SPREP/PCCC acknowledged lack of technical skills and knowledge among staff to conduct proper O&M. They are looking at hiring a dedicated expert as a solution, however, no specific time frame has been confirmed. This remains a challenge and options around cost-recovery for projects hosted at the PCCC building will be explored for the O&M services.

##### <Financial Aspect>

According to PCCC/SPREP, budget for maintenance has been limited and financed through the MFAT New Zealand Grant Agreement for Staffing. At the time of this assessment, the Pacific Community and UNEP have been currently renting the ground floor space of the PCCC for their offices. The Pacific community have since left and Live and Learn is a new tenant hosted at the PCCC building in addition to related climate change and climate services projects.

Nonetheless, the issues of the lack of dedicated personnel and some issues of the facilities/equipment mentioned below have not been responded.

##### <Environmental and Social Aspect>

No issue on environmental and social aspects has been observed, and it has not been necessary to take any countermeasures.

##### <Current Status of Operation and Maintenance>

Most of the facilities and equipment have been in good conditions; however, there have been some minor issues. First, there is a water leak in one of the first-floor offices, which was noted during the warranty period. SPREP hired a company twice to fix the leak but has not yet been fixed. According to the property manager, the specialized engineers may be needed to have it repaired properly in order to stop the leak. No immediate plan for the repair is confirmed. There has been also an issue with the circuit breaker for lights and air-conditioning units. It requires manual intervention every time the circuit breaker trips. The issue of leakage has been addressed; however, the circuit breaker issue is a challenge that stems not only from outages but the inherent unstable supply from the local grid. This requires wider exploration and specialist expertise to find a solution considering the fluctuations of power from the grid to change any time soon.

##### <Evaluation Result>

In light of the above, some problems have been observed in terms of the institutional/organizational, technical and financial aspects. Therefore, the sustainability of the project effects is ②.

#### 5 Summary of the Evaluation

The project partially achieved the project objectives, as the facilities have been utilized to certain extent. As for sustainability, some problems have been observed in terms of the institutional/organizational, technical and financial aspects. As for efficiency, the project period exceeded the plan.

Considering all of the above points, this project is evaluated to be satisfactory.

### III. Recommendations & Lessons Learned

#### Recommendations to Executing Agency:

- It is recommended that PCCC/SPREP contract third-party services for office maintenance, specifically to repair the water leak on the first floor and effectively prevent further damage. Additionally, investigating the persistent circuit breaker issue is advised to ensure the protection of PCCC's electrical assets against sporadic power outages. JICA could introduce Japanese companies that work on other grant projects in Samoa.
- It is important to allocate dedicated budget specifically for maintenance services to ensure its availability and sustainability. *(Note: This is currently covered through MFAT funding. In longer term SPREP is working internally to explore options around cost-recovery from projects that are hosted within the PCCC and fees and rental for the use of facilities to address the maintenance service beyond the current MFAT funding support.)*



One of the lecture rooms located on the ground floor of the PCCC is utilized for the delivery of Climate Change training courses, meetings and hosting of high-level visits.



The first floor of the PCCC building is being utilized by SPREP/PCCC staff as office space. Six climate change-related projects are also being carried out here.