Pacific Island Community Adaptive Co-management Course (PICCC) -2015

Background:

The Pacific Islands are dispersed over a third of the globe and blessed with extremely rich marine biological and habitat diversity, matched by remarkable diversity of its people's cultures. There is an ongoing need to develop capacity to manage these resources which is appropriate to local needs.

This lack of human capacity to address government and local resource managers' needs was identified in 2000 and led to the collaboration by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), The University of the South Pacific (USP) and the International Centre for Protected Landscape (ICPL) to develop and establish a vocational training program for Pacific Island practitioners in 2001. The Pacific Islands Community-based Conservation Course (PICCC) has been offered four times since then and it has received acclaim from governments, NGOs and sponsors alike (as well as the participants themselves). The first offering targeted country focal points of the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Project and later ones have trained many Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) Practitioners.

The course will be offered over three phases:

Phase 1:17 March – 13 April, 2015 – face to face Learning
Phase 2: May – September, 2015 - applying learning at work site
Phase 3: October, 2015 – reflecting on work experience

Venue: The University of the South Pacific (USP) Laucala Campus in Suva, Fiji.

Implementing Partners:

There is strong support from the BIOPAMA programme and the regional project on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management programme in Pacific Island Countries (MACBIO) to update and consolidate the PICCC over a 5 year period (2014 – 2019) during which 3 Pacific regional and at least 2 sub-regional or tailored courses will be held.



MACBIO is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety and implemented by the German Agency for Development Cooperation (GIZ) in close collaboration with SPREP and IUCN. The project aims to document coastal and marine ecosystem service values in order to support sustainable national development planning, supports national marine spatial planning processes and works with a wide range of partners to support and strengthen effective management and conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity.

The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme biopama.org aims to address threats to biodiversity in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, while reducing poverty in communities in and around protected areas. It is financially supported by resources from the intra-ACP envelope of the European Commission's (EC) 10th European Development Fund (EDF). BIOPAMA combines improving data availability with capacity development to strengthen protected area management. It has two main components: one concerning protected areas, jointly implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the EC's Joint Research Centre (JRC), and dealing- with access and benefit sharing (ABS), implemented by the Multi-Donor ABS Capacity Development Initiative managed by Deutsche Gesellschaft fùr Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

Many past students and trainers have been or become members of the Locally Managed Marine Area Network (LMMA) and it is proposed to draw formally on the region's premier community resource management network in several ways. The lessons learned in terms of taking community management to national scale are particularly important as well how this can work across sectors such as climate change and disaster risk reduction. In addition the LMMA Network offers the opportunity for course participants to continue actively networking with past and present graduates as well as with peers and communities across the region into the future.

This "new" Pacific Islands Community adaptive Co-management Course (PICCC) is an outcome of the concerted efforts by the collaborative partners to modernise the old course to refocus on critical, urgent and relevant issues and skills for the Pacific islands such as coastal fisheries management and to meet design constraints which include:

- targeting people most likely to apply the skills acquired,
- ensuring that approaches appropriate to the region are taught,
- using appropriate methods both during the course and in subsequent support to trainees,
- providing information and tools likely to be applied after course completion, and
- keeping the course concise so as not to remove key staff from their jobs for an excessive period.

The course will provide participants with the practical knowledge and skills required for the sustainable management of natural resources such as fisheries management and conservation areas and other forms of protected areas such as Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs). The course is integrated in the USP curriculum and provides practitioners with the opportunity to further their education in conservation management including the possibility of acquiring postgraduate qualifications through the university's academic structure.



Course Aim and Objectives:

The aim of the course is to build and improve the capacity of conservation practitioners, community representatives, government technical officers, NGO technical officers and training personnel in the management of community-based conservation projects and sites for the sustainable conservation and management of natural resources.

The course aims to provide core skills and develop critical thinking for achieving widespread natural resource management and sustainable community livelihoods in Pacific island countries drawing particularly on successful regional experience and skills. Though the course draws on relevant international science and thinking it particularly encourages participants to evaluate and share experiences from within the region.

The course is structured specifically to:

- Develop personal professional skills and strengthen the confidence to apply them
- Develop and practice community participation and planning skills
- Develop understanding of the wider governance context affecting or supporting community livelihoods
- Develop critical thinking and strategic planning capacity
- Understand basic natural resource management, conservation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction and supplementary livelihood tool.

The specific objectives of the course are to give participants the ability to:

- be familiar with the various approaches to natural resource management and conservation, including the role of Fisheries Management, LMMA and Conservation Area systems in protecting biological and cultural diversity and in supporting communities to do so;
- identify and address, at the local level, the major natural and cultural threats to sustainable natural resource management and conservation area establishment and management;
- use a range of participatory planning and consultation tools in support of conservation area management and the development of community-based conservation action plans;
- examine the need for enterprise planning; describe the basic themes and processes of business planning; as well as gain practical experience with a range of basic business skills;
- gain practical experience with a range of interpersonal and communication skills including how to generate public support and how to understand the role of partners in education programs;
- appreciate and understand project design and management relevant for conservation management;
- appreciate and understand the need for leadership skills, critical thinking, strategic planning; and know the roles and functions of a range of planning tools; and
- describe the major biodiversity and conservation conventions and strategies, their inter-linkages and their relevance to the Pacific Island countries.

Teaching Methods:

There will be some direct teaching, interspersed in most sessions with activities (individual, paired or group exercises) of varying lengths. Presentations, discussion and reviews will reinforce the active

learning component.

Taught elements will be illustrated by case studies and examples from the member countries and from other regions. There will be field visits to bring issues to light and to provide opportunities to practice skills. These visits will include a 2-3 day excursion to provide practical, in field and in-the-community experience in applying the principles and skills learned during the course.









Selection Criteria:
Participation in this course will require on-going commitment. The participation of personnel who are involved in conservation management at the “hands-on” level will be encouraged. Participants will be expected to describe how their attendance will improve a conservation site or program in their country. The following criteria will be used by USP and SPREP when selecting candidates for the course:

- Qualifications and experience of each applicant to implement and transfer to others what was learnt at the course

- Work program of applicant - will it allow for the additional load of preparing and writing up a project back home after the course?
- Interest level and motivation of the applicant - has the applicant shown initiative in his/her own area of work in issues relating to community based conservation management?
- The applicant must be currently or planning to be involved in assisting with the management of a conservation area which involves training others;
- Level of support from the candidate's organization;
- Sufficient guarantee that the applicant will return to apply the newly learned skills after completion of the course. Gender equity is a factor in the selection of participants for inclusion in this program.

Phase 1: Face-to-Face learning

This phase will consist of a four-week face to face learning experience in Suva March/April, 2015 covering topics in the attached course description.

Phase 2: Applying learning at work site (In-country project work)

In line with the above objectives, participants will have to carry out a 4-5 month practical project relevant to their work and natural resource conservation management in their home countries from May to September. Participants will use their background knowledge and the skills and knowledge gained from the training to complete the in-country project. The in-country project will form part of the overall assessment for the course leading to a course certificate. Arrangements will be made for ongoing project supervision in-country.

Phase 3: Reflecting on work experience

Following the 4-5 month project work, participants will be required to return to Fiji in October to attend a three-week on-campus course at USP that will involve coverage of additional learning modules, a review of everything covered in Phase 1 and the in-country project, enabling participants to share their experiences. Successful completion of this project and submission of a draft project report are pre-requisites for attendance in Phase 3. Applicants who successfully complete all three aspects will receive a certificate of completion and be considered on application for being awarded a USP course credit towards post-graduate study.

Funding of Applicants:

Partial financial support for the 2015 PICCC has been committed by MACBIO and by IUCN through the BIOPAMA Programme. This will assist in adapting the former course and paying tuition costs for applicants whose organization cannot meet these costs. Thus, intending candidates should seek for support from various funding sources including project or employer funds. Some internal scholarship funding is available. On your application form you will tick what support is needed.

Please forward all completed applications to SPREP with a copy to USP. Application deadline is 31

December, 2014 and applicants should forward their applications to the **Ramsar Officer Oceania, SPREP, P.0 Box 240, Apia, Samoa, Fax +685 20231, email: vainuupoj@sprep.org** and **The Institute of Applied Science, USP Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji email: Aalbersberg@usp.ac.fj; fax +679 3231534** by **31 December, 2014**.

Logistical Arrangements:

Accommodation, Meals and Incidentals

At this stage, accommodation for all participants will be provided at nearby lodgings (hotels/motels) and will be confirmed nearer the course commencement. An allowance will be provided during the stay in Suva at a rate of FJD$80/ day to cover meals not provided at venue and incidentals.

Airfares and Transfers

Return economy airfares to and from Nausori (via Nadi) for all overseas participants will need to be paid for by the supporting government agency or sponsors. Departure taxes, excess luggage, any other incidental costs and any flight alterations will be the responsibility of the participant. Limited sponsorship is available for these costs.

Insurance

Participants are responsible for their own insurance while travelling to or from the workshop venue and the organisers shall not accept liability for any injury suffered by a person attending the workshop. We strongly recommend that participants take out personal insurance (at employer's/her/his own expense) for the period in which s/he is sponsored or is travelling to or from the course.

Visas

It is the responsibility of the participant to arrange any necessary visa(s) required for travel.

Program

Please note that this is subject to finalization by USP and SPREP and will be circulated as soon as it is finalized.

Course Costs (USD$) per participant

Course Costs	**Phase 1**	**Phase 2**	**Total**
Tuition fee	2,089	691	**2,780**
Estimate of Accommodation meals and incidentals	2,258	1,694	**3,952**
Total (USD$)	4,347	2,385	**6,732**

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Pacific Island Community Adaptive Co-management Course (PICCC) -2015

Phase 1: 17 March – 13 April, 2015

What is PICCC?
This is a three-phase course (learn, implement, reflect) run over several months (seven weeks in residence in Suva, Fiji) which provides resource managers and conservation practitioners with skills, information and experience in community-based adaptive management and conservation. The course will re-focus on developing relevant skills urgently required to address critical issues for the Pacific islands such as coastal fisheries management.

When will it be held?
The first phase will be held 17 March – 13 April, 2015 followed by project work at home site for 4-5 months followed by a second phase in October, 2015.

Who is it for?
The course is targeting natural resource, conservation and fisheries managers and workers in government departments, non-government organizations and community leaders.

Where is PICCC being run?
The course is held at the Suva campus of the University of the South Pacific (USP) and successful graduates can be given a postgraduate credit.

What core skills will be developed?
The course aims to provide core skills and develop critical thinking for achieving widespread natural resource management and sustainable community livelihoods in Pacific island countries drawing particularly on successful regional experience and skills. Though the course draws on relevant international science and thinking it particularly encourages participants to evaluate and share experiences from within the region. The aims are to:

- Develop personal professional skills and the confidence to apply them
- Develop and practice community participation and planning skills
- Develop understanding of the wider governance context affecting or supporting community livelihoods
- Develop critical thinking and strategic planning capacity
- Understand basic natural resource management, conservation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction and supplementary livelihood tools

What topics will be covered?
The content of the course is divided into 4 key themes including the topics listed below.

"Enabling environment"	**Tools and techniques**	*Technical knowledge*	***Scaling up, mainstreaming and joint implementation***
• Developing policy, legislation, ordinances, plans, strategies and by-laws • Traditional governance and norms • Institutions and national architecture/ structures • Principles of effective service delivery (government and others) • Good / bad governance, role of government, NGOs, communities, etc • Leadership (different forms, functions, styles, etc.	• Participation (different perspectives incl. planning and management for communities) • Facilitation, managing meetings, committees, etc. • Adaptive management• Project cycle management • Strategic planning and evaluation • Proposal writing (also meet the donors) • Budgeting and accounting • Purposeful monitoring• Time management • Basic GIS skill	• Coastal fisheries management • Conservation and protected areas • Sustainable, alternative and supplementary livelihoods (e.g. FSPI worksheets) • Simple but essential economic tools such as CBA • Climate change adaptation, Disaster risk reduction (DRR), coastal erosion and control, • Integrated management (ICM / EBM / EAF / IIM / MSP) • EIA, SEA and ongoing systems	• Strategizing service delivery and joint implementation • Decentralization and networking • Effective dissemination and social marketing • Systematic information and awareness strategies and tools • Government policy, planning and budgeting processes • Spatial planning at various scales and degrees of technical complexity

How much does it cost?

Course tuition is USD$ 2,780. Air fares, accommodation and a daily allowance will be needed for each participant to cover the cost of meals and incidentals. Partial financial support for the 2015 PICCC has been committed by the IUCN BIOPAMA Program and MACBIO and this will cover some support for participants. Thus, intending candidates should seek support from various funding sources including project or employer funds. Some scholarship funding is available by the sponsor.

For further information, please contact Bill Aalbersberg on: aalbersberg@usp.ac.fj

How do I apply for the course?

You can apply by filling in the application form and sending it through with the required support letter by the closing date- **December 31, 2014**. This flyer is to announce the course and encourage people to start applying.

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