




Photo Source: Loop PNG

Skills for Climate-Resilient Communities in Papua New Guinea (PNG)



Papua New Guinea was selected as one of the countries to participate in the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR). The PPCR is part of the Strategic Climate Fund (SCF), a multi-donor Trust Fund within the Climate Investment Funds (CIF), and provides financing through the multilateral development banks to support programs in the selected pilot countries. The goal of the PPCR is to help countries transform to a climate resilient development path, consistent with national poverty reduction and sustainable development goals. The Government of PNG obtained a SCF-PPCR grant from the Asian Development Bank to implement the Building Resilience to Climate Change (BRCC) project.



Photo Source: Loop PNG

The BRCC project increases the PNG Government's ability to achieving resilience to the impacts of climate change at the community level. It achieves this by supporting the Government at the National and Provincial levels to mainstream climate resilience into development planning and addresses country priorities that focus on vulnerable communities in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB) and the four participating provinces of East New Britain, Manus, Milne Bay and Morobe comprising of 21 priority vulnerable islands/atolls.

Project Objectives

The objective of the project is to increase resilience to the impacts of climate vulnerability and climate change and improve capacities of communities in vulnerable atolls and islands, government agencies, and civil society to plan and to respond to the impacts of climate change.

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is highly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change



Photo Source: Loop PNG

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is highly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and changing precipitation patterns. As such, building climate resilience at the local level is imperative to mitigate these impacts and ensure sustainable development. One effective approach to enhancing climate resilience is through skill-building programs that empower communities to adapt to climate change challenges effectively. This presentation explores the significance of skill-building programs in promoting climate resilience at the local level in Papua New Guinea.

Importance of Skill Building Programs



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- Skill-building programs play a crucial role in equipping individuals and communities with the knowledge, tools, and capacities needed to respond to climate change impacts effectively. These programs facilitate the development of practical skills, such as sustainable agriculture practices, disaster preparedness, water management techniques, and renewable energy technologies, which are essential for enhancing resilience to climate-related hazards.



Promoting Climate-Resilient Agriculture

- ▶ Agriculture is a cornerstone of livelihoods in many communities in Papua New Guinea. Skill-building programs focused on climate-resilient agriculture practices can help farmers adapt to changing environmental conditions. Training initiatives that emphasize agroforestry, crop management and diversification, soil conservation, irrigation management and water harvesting techniques enable farmers to maintain productivity in the face of climate variability and extreme weather events.

Strengthening Natural Resource Management



Photo Source: Loop PNG

- ▶ Effective management of natural resources is essential for climate resilience. Skill-building programs that focus on sustainable forest management techniques, marine conservation, and watershed protection empower communities to preserve ecosystems, mitigate environmental degradation, and safeguard biodiversity. By enhancing knowledge and skills in natural resource management, communities can better adapt to climate change impacts while maintaining ecosystem services vital for their well-being.

Enhancing Disaster Preparedness and Response



Photo Source: Loop PNG

- Skill-building programs aimed at disaster preparedness and response are critical for reducing vulnerability to climate-related disasters. Community-based training on early warning systems, landscape design, evacuation procedures, first aid, and search and rescue operations can save lives and minimize the impact of disasters such as floods, landslides, and cyclones. Empowering communities with these skills enables them to act swiftly and effectively in emergencies.

Fostering Renewable Energy Solutions

- Transitioning to renewable energy sources is integral to climate resilience efforts. Skill-building programs that promote the use of solar, wind, hydro, and biomass energy technologies enable communities to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance energy security. Training initiatives on renewable energy system design, installation, and maintenance empower individuals to harness clean energy solutions tailored to local needs.



Photo Source: Loop PNG

Waste Management



Source: Photo taken from Article by Thomas Wangi from DevPolicyBlog.

- ▶ The sound management of waste can also contribute substantially to address climate change and reduce the carbon footprint.
- ▶ Green skills such as: waste minimization, waste reuse and recycling, waste-to-energy techniques, and waste-to-energy design and maintenance will empower communities to establish waste management and recycling programs, systems and waste-to-energy facilities.



Conclusion

- ▶ Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology is developing a curriculum across the Higher Education Sector with specific focus on Skill-building programs that are indispensable for building climate resilience at the local level in Papua New Guinea. By providing communities with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to adapt to climate change challenges, these programs contribute to sustainable development, poverty reduction, and disaster risk reduction efforts. Investing in skills for climate-resilient communities is essential for ensuring the long-term resilience and well-being of Papua New Guinean communities in the face of climate change uncertainties.
- ▶ With ADB's support, Papua New Guinea will be able to develop and implement approaches for climate change adaptation through the development of citizens with green skills required to mitigate climate change impacts.