

Goal of Approach:

In partnership with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the U.S. Government will promote healthy ecosystems in the Solomon Islands. Healthy ecosystems, such as mangroves, coral reefs, and wetlands, form natural barriers against extreme weather events, e.g. storm surges, and increase resilience to rising sea levels and changing rainfall patterns, and reduce risks associated with these events. As natural buffers, ecosystems can be less expensive to maintain than man-made infrastructure, such as dykes, levees, and concrete break walls. Healthy ecosystems also provide important economic and social benefits to local populations, including firewood, clean water, and food. The program will contribute to a broader effort in the region to implement ecosystem-based adaptation.

Input provided by: United States (USAID/Barbados)

Main elements of the implementation strategy

SPREP, in partnership with the U.S. Government, seeks to promote healthy ecosystems in the Solomon Islands to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and to protect crucial ecosystem services, such as clean water and food, and therefore to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. Main elements of the strategy include:

- Developing resources and tools that integrate ecosystem-based adaptation into existing guidelines for community-based adaptation.
- Training government officials, community leaders and stakeholder groups, such as women and youth, on ecosystem-based adaptation and the identification and prioritization of ecosystem-based adaptation strategies and activities.
- Gathering information, via surveys, rapid participatory appraisal techniques, and focus group discussions, on vulnerability to climate change impacts.
- Identifying and assessing potential ecosystem-based adaptation measures.
- Working with government officials and communities to implement appropriate ecosystem-based adaptation measures, such as protecting or rehabilitating mangroves and other coastal vegetation that has the potential to serve as a protective barrier against storm surges and sea level rise, and implementing upland and watershed management for effective water storage and flood regulation services.

Targeted beneficiaries

Government officials and communities in the Solomon Islands

Any significant lessons learned**Resource requirements**

\$2 million through 2015

Potential for replication or scaling-up

Any additional information