



## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA AUSTRALIA PACIFIC CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP



*Participants in the TNC Mangrove Market Meri program undertake practical field work outside Alotau, Milne Bay Province. Credit: The Nature Conservancy.*

Eighty per cent of PNG's population lives in rural and remote communities that rely on subsistence agriculture and artisan fishing – these communities are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Australia is working with the PNG Government to address climate change challenges through the PNG-Australia Climate Change Action Plan, a ministerial agreement between both countries.

Australia's support aims to enhance the resilience of PNG communities, and of critical social and economic infrastructure, to climate change in line with the action plan. A key target is to enhance the resilience of 100 rural communities in PNG by the end of 2021. This is being delivered through a Climate Change Grants Program in partnership with NGOs, academia and the private sector.

The grants program currently supports 31 remote-rural communities to apply sustainable management practices to their forest, land and marine resources to improve food security, income generation and provide broader ecosystem benefits for their livelihoods.

For example, The Nature Conservancy (an NGO partner) is training women in Manus and Milne Bay provinces to take care of mangroves through its Mangrove Market Meri Program. The participants learn to identify and count mangrove saplings and species, identify potential climate change impacts on the mangrove forests, and better understand the benefits of mangrove forests to their communities.

Mangrove conservation helps protect communities from climate change impacts like sea storms, improves food security, and provides financial benefits to the people that rely on mangroves the most.

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