



US commit funds for climate change in the Pacific

By Online Editor

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United States Assistant Secretary of State, Kurt Campbell

The United States Government today formally joined forces with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) to advance climate change adaptation. These partnerships are part of a larger (USD) \$21 million “fast start” finance commitment made by the United States for a Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) climate change programme.

Through these partnerships, the United States, SPC and SPREP will strengthen the capacity of the countries and communities in the Pacific Islands to improve food security and water security, and to protect critical ecosystems. The partnerships will also help these countries access information about climate impacts to make more effective and sustainable decisions in the face of climate change.

Representatives from the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development were joined by representatives from SPC and SPREP to announce the partnership at a formal signing ceremony on the margins of the Pacific Island Forum and Post-Forum Dialogue.

Rainfall changes and extreme weather events will cause heightened food security challenges for the PSIDS in the coming decades. As a result, the United States and SPC have partnered to strengthen food security among communities in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu. The United States and SPREP will help improve the ability of communities in

Kiribati to address the impact of climate change on water resources as well as help Kiribati's Ministry of Health integrate adaptation into national health planning and policies. The United States and SPREP also will work together to promote healthy ecosystems in the Solomon Islands.

The United States will manage the \$21 million program through the U.S. Agency for International Development, which will open an office in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea in the coming months.

Last year, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced the \$21 million U.S. "fast start" finance assistance for the PSIDS over two years (2010-2011). The PSIDS funding is a part of a larger commitment from the United States to work with developed country partners to provide "fast start" financing from 2010-2012. The "fast start" financing was included in the negotiated packages agreed to at the UN climate talks in Copenhagen and Cancun.

SOURCE: US/PACNEWS