



Client: The Nature Conservancy

Location: Oneisomw, Faichuuk region, Chuuk State, Federated States of Micronesia

Duration: 2015

Services: Climate change adaptation, natural hazard risk mitigation, village development planning, community participation and plan development, village water resource and coastal hazard risk assessment.

Oneisomw is one of nine islands within the Faichuuk region, located within the Chuuk State lagoon. It is a high volcanic island with a population of around 1,200.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Chuuk Conservation Society (CCS) have been working with the community of Oneisomw to help them plan for and respond to climate change and other local stressors. A vulnerability assessment was conducted and from this a local early action plan developed with the community to identify priority social and ecological targets and threats. Based on the threats identified, a follow up phase was conducted in 2015 to develop a community management plan focused on water security and increased community resilience to coastal hazards.

NIWA provided technical support to the development of the plan. This involved working with the Oneisomw community, TNC and CCS to assess coastal hazard issues relevant to the community and how these may change over the next one to two generations with climate change.

Village-based adaptation pathways were developed focusing on: 1) foundation activities that protect and enhance the natural coastal defences, 2) planning where the village develops in the future to avoid the most at risk areas, 3) identifying changes to building construction methods to make them more resilient to coastal inundation hazards, 4) improving coastal defence design to improve effectiveness, and 5) reinforcing village disaster management procedures. An assessment of the condition and needs of village water resource including wells, springs and roof catchment systems was also conducted.

A key output from these efforts is a management plan identifying locally relevant response strategies for the community focused on water security and increased community resilience to coastal hazards.

This is now being used to direct village-led implementation activities being supported by TNC and CCS, and is feeding in to the Chuuk State priorities in the Federated States of Micronesia's Strategic Development Plan.