

CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS

Issue 36 July 2015



'Te bui bui' structure, USAID/SPREP adaptation project, Abaiang, Kiribati Photo: Ratita Bebe, ECD/MELAD

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"The Pacific Environment—sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures"

CLIMATE CHANGE DIVISION

SPREP, Apia, Samoa

T: +685 21929

E: climatechange@sprep.org

W: www.sprep.org

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Director's Note



Dr Netatua Pelesikoti
Climate Change Division Director
SPREP

Dear Readers,

Here in our Pacific region we have several ways you can keep up to date with what is happening in climate change and disaster risk reduction.

Have you visited the climate change portal at www.pacificclimatechange.net?

The Pacific Regional Climate Change Portal is managed by SPREP on behalf of partners and regional organisations that are supporting Pacific island countries and territories to address climate change and related disaster risks.

The Pacific Climate Change Portal can provide you with country profiles, climate tools, events, news, documents and general information on regional projects and partners and so much more.

The Regional Technical Support Mechanism is also worth a visit especially for those who are involved in the consultancy business and if you have experience and expertise in climate change and disaster risk reduction.

In this issue of the CCM we share a short review of and the link to an interesting article -

“Unambiguous Warming in the Western Pacific Caused by Human Activity”. The Working Group One Report of the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC AR5 WG 1) states that it is ‘extremely likely that human influence has been dominant cause of observed warming since mid-20th century’.

Our National Meteorological Services have a vital role in providing us with the information and knowledge, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The importance of information and knowledge for planning is something the Pacific Climate Change Portal is trying to provide and your feedback on the Portal is very valuable.

Before I end I'd like to say that we look forward to meeting with you in July for the Pacific Meteorological Council and the first meeting of the Cabinet Ministers responsible for Meteorology to be hosted by the Government of Tonga (20-24 July 2015).

'ofa atu,
Neta

About Us

SPREP's Climate Change Division (CCD) is made up of three programmes:

1. Adaptation;
2. Mitigation;
3. Policy and Science.

The work of the CCD is directed by the SPREP Strategic Plan 2011-2015 based on the climate change priorities of SPREP Members and consistent with the *Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006-2015* (PIFACC) and other relevant and approved policy drivers such as the Pacific Plan and the Framework for Action on Disaster Risk Management.

SPREP's three (broad) climate change strategic priorities for 2011-2015 are:

1. Implementing adaptation measures;
2. Improving members' capacity, knowledge and understanding of climate change, and risk reduction;
3. Contributing to global greenhouse gas reduction.

Please visit our website at: www.sprep.org/Climate-Change/climate-change-about-us

We kindly acknowledge the following donors and partners:





Negotiators closer to a Paris Agreement

Pacific Island countries were amongst the governments who met in Bonn, Germany last month (June 1 – 11th), working on the current draft of the new climate change agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to be adopted at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) in Paris, in December this year.

For the full article: [Click here](#)



Small Island Developing States the focus of new Meteorology Programme

SPREP congratulates the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on their resolution to establish a new programme dedicated to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Member Island Territories.

For the full article: [Click here](#)



Addressing Climate Change Loss and Damage in the Pacific

SPREP, with funding from GIZ, has recently completed a pilot assessment of the capacity of Pacific Island countries to address loss and damage from the adverse impacts of climate change.

For the full article: [Click here](#)





U.S White House mentions SPREP and Peace Corps partnership

The United States White House has mentioned the partnership signed between the U.S Peace Corps and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in a Release on 'Launching a Public-Private Partnership to Empower Climate-Resilience Developing Nations'

For the full article: [Click here](#)



Unambiguous Warming in the Western Pacific Caused by Human Activity

In a new study released 6 May 2015, three distinguished scientists from the Australia Bureau of Meteorology have been able to unambiguously show that the Western Pacific has warmed beyond historical limits.

For the full article: [Click here](#)



Building Capacity on Oceans in Palau

Our oceans are arguably the most valuable resource of the Pacific Islands and in May this year we moved one step closer to being better able to fully understand and manage them. The Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP), in cooperation with SPREP, hosted their first capacity building workshop in the region, focusing on ocean observing and data applications.

For the full article: [Click here](#)





The Village that Banned Seawalls

In June 2015, when a team from the Government's Environment and Conservation Division (ECD) visited Aonobuaka village in Kiribati, they learned that the community had banned the building of seawalls.

For the full article: [Click here](#)



Lessons from Cyclone Pam help Vanuatu Media prepare for future events

Vanuatu broadcasters and media came together with the National Disaster Management Office, and the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazard Department to plan and prepare their Climate and Disaster Resilience Plans.

For the full article: [Click here](#)



The Inclusion of Climate Displacement in the Paris Agreement

A panel discussion on the displacement of people from the impact and effects of climate change was held during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 42nd session of the Subsidiary Bodies and the Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) discussions in Bonn, Germany.

For the full article: [Click here](#)





U.S. Peace Corps and SPREP work together to address Climate Change

Peace Corps Director Ms. Carrie Hessler-Radelet joined Director General of SPREP Mr. David Sheppard, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations that will strengthen the region's response to climate change by placing Peace Corps Volunteers within SPREP.

For the full article: [Click here](#)

CALENDAR - July 2015 Activities	Date	Location
North Pacific Negotiations Training	13 – 17 July	FSM
PPCR Monitoring and Evaluation and Cost Benefit Analysis Workshops	13-17 July	Tuvalu
ROK PI Inception Training and Workshop	15 – 17 July	Tonga
Regional Media Training	15 – 17 July	Tonga
PPCR Pilot Countries Meeting	20-23 July	Italy
3 rd Pacific Meteorological Council	20 – 23 July	Tonga
Pacific ICLIM Data Inventory/Stock take	20 – 24 July	Tonga
1 st Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology	24 July	Tonga
PIGGAREP Monitoring and Evaluation Site Visit	27 – 31 July	Tonga