

Fish trap, Abaiang, Kiribati
(photo: Carlo Iacovino)

CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS

Issue 24 — June 2014

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SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

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

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Director's Note



Dr Netatua Pelesikoti

Climate Change Division Director
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Dear Readers,

Congratulations Tokelau for winning the 2014 EECA Energy Award. You have not let the obvious challenges of installation and long term maintenance of photo-voltaic systems stop you from pursuing development that is clean and affordable.

The IPCC 5th Assessment Report (AR5) has proven the role of greenhouse gas emissions in global warming and the consequences for small islands. The efforts of Tokelau and those of other Pacific island countries and territories in reducing their risks and developing adaptation measures, will be even more challenging if the global temperature is not capped below 2 degrees Celsius. I would encourage you to read the IPCC AR5 Working Groups Reports - 1 on Climate Change Science; 2 on Impacts, Vulnerability, and Adaptation; and 3 on Mitigation.

The Tokelau story is nevertheless a story that resonates throughout the Pacific. The PICTs are doing what they can to adapt to climate change and extreme events as seen in national policies, action plans and adopting integrated approaches in responding to climate change.

These very efforts have also identified that we can't do it alone, the Pacific needs genuine and durable partnerships, such as that seen between Tokelau and New Zealand in ensuring renewable energy for an entire nation.

Talk to you next month.

Netatua

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:



Tokelau wins EECA Renewable Energy Award 2014



Photo: Foua Toloa, Tokelau Government Minister for Energy, receives the award

Tokelau's renewable energy project won the 2014 Renewable Energy Award of New Zealand's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) last night at a ceremony in Auckland.

The Government of Tokelau solar project has become a leader in renewable energy with solar photovoltaic's (PV) now providing 90% of the atolls' electricity needs. The project was initiated by Tokelau and co-funded by Tokelau and the Government of New Zealand through an advance by NZ's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The result is that Tokelau's energy supply is local, clean and self-sufficient.

The award was received by Tokelau's Minister of Energy, Faipule Foua Toloa, on behalf of the Government and the people of Tokelau. This Award recognises Tokelau's initiative to increase the production or use of renewable energy. The aim of this Award is to recognise achievements and highlight and foster improvements in New Zealand's renewable energy industry. The EECA Awards celebrate excellence and innovation in energy efficiency or renewable energy. This year, a record 150 entries were received across ten categories.

Collectively, the 2014 Award entries will save or generate energy worth around NZD100 million to entrants over the life of the projects, and reduce CO2 emissions by 200,000 tonnes. On top of this, the combined health benefits are estimated at around NZD24 million a year. Tokelau and New Zealand are also embarking on incorporating energy-efficiency measures in a new ferry being built.

"I challenge all of you to equal or better the humble achievement by Tokelau in becoming the first nation in the world to sustainably produce its electricity from solar energy. Our actions now will shape the future we want for our nations and most importantly our children."

Foua Toloa, Minister for Energy, Tokelau

For more solar project information from the Government of Tokelau: [Click here](#)



Raise your hands for a better future in Abaiang, Kiribati

The Government of Kiribati 'Whole-of-Island' team has returned to Abaiang for the launch of the core elements of the Abaiang Island Council Strategic Action Plan and to undertake agricultural, education, fisheries, meteorological and water sector related activities and training on the atoll.

The Water Engineering Unit from the Kiribati Ministry of Public Works and Utilities, with support from SPREP and USAID, has been testing well water and selecting specific sites where improved 'Tamana' pumps can be installed. These easily maintained, hand powered pumps greatly reduce bacterial contamination of household water supplies.

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



Photos: Dancing celebration for the launch of the plan in Abaiang (left) and The Abaiang Island Council votes to endorse the document (above)

COSPPac officially releases Real-Time Data Display



Image: Real time display (4th April, 2014) for Apia, Samoa clearly shows the spread of waves from the Chilean tsunami

The real-time display should prove useful for in-country authorities involved in managing marine activities, coastal assets, and national security, such as port authorities and national disaster mitigation agencies, as well as by those in the fishing and tourism sectors.

The tool proved very useful in monitoring the spread of waves generated from the April 2014 Chilean tsunami throughout the Pacific region – as can be seen in the screenshots of the tide gauge data from Samoa.

After a successful trial period, the Climate and Ocean Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac) have officially released their real-time data display for the Pacific tide gauge network. The tool will provide COSPPac's Pacific stakeholders, particularly the National Meteorology Services, with a convenient and easy-to-interpret 'dashboard' view of sea level and weather conditions for 16 tide gauges in the Pacific Sea Level Monitoring network.

There are two versions of the real-time display: an 'internet' version, which allows you to view information from any tide gauge in the Pacific network and a 'Local' version, which may be useful in Pacific countries with limited internet connectivity, and displays only information from each country's own tide gauge.

To access the real-time display: [Click here](#)

South-West Pacific Regional Association Meets

Meteorologists in the South-West Pacific met in Jakarta from 2 to 8 May 2014, to discuss how to strengthen weather and climate services in a region exposed to heatwaves, drought, tropical cyclones and flash floods, and is especially vulnerable to rising sea-levels caused by climate change.

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



Photo (WMO): Dr Andi Eka SAKYA, President of RAV, Indonesia and Mr Ofa FA'ANUNU, vice-President of RAV, Tonga

Pacific will join UN Climate Negotiations in Bonn

Pacific island climate negotiators will be joining the United Nations Climate Change negotiations in Bonn, Germany, to join the Subsidiary Bodies meetings under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

These discussions will focus on a number of key issues that are important to the Pacific region, including climate financing and how to raise the level of ambition for much needed reductions of greenhouse gases. Also on the agenda will be the composition of the new executive to the International Mechanism on Loss and Damage that was established at the last Conference of the Parties in November last year.

Additionally, there will be a High Level Ministerial Dialogue held at the same venue, on 5 and 6 June, where Ministers will discuss issues related to the development of a new Post 2020 International Climate Change agreement

(which is expected to be adopted in Paris, at the end of 2015); as well as issues related to how to raise the ambition of countries emissions reduction targets under the 2nd Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol.

These meetings will run from 4 to 16 June and SPREP will send two climate policy representatives to work with countries attending and provide them with on-site technical and policy advice. For more information on the meetings, agenda and working documents, please visit www.unfccc.int.

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Samoa Launch of the Fifth Assessment Climate Change Reports



Photo: Team for Working Group 2- Chapter 29 Small Islands. Coordinating Lead Authors- Leonard Nurse (Barbados), Roger McLean (Australia) Lead Authors - John Agard (Trinidad and Tobago), Lino Pascal Briguglio (Malta), Virginie Duvat (France), Netatua Pelesikoti (Samoa), Emma Tompkins (UK), Arthur Webb (Fiji) Review Editors - Thomas Spencer (UK), Kazuya Yasuhara (Japan) Volunteer Chapter Scientist - Veronique Morin (Canada)

The Samoa launch of the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) took place in Apia on 19 May at the National University of Samoa.

It was an opportunity for the public to learn more about the results found within the IPCC reports and how climate change will likely impact upon the Pacific islands and the world.

The IPCC Assessment Reports come from three different Working Groups. For the Fifth Assessment Report, the 'Physical Science Basis Report' was prepared by Working Group 1; the 'Impacts Adaptation and Vulnerability Report' by Working Group 2; and the 'Mitigation of Climate Change Report' by Working Group 3.

Authors are selected from lists supplied by governments and organisations, based on their expertise and experience. All IPCC experts who contribute to the preparation of these reports do so, on a voluntary basis with no financial remuneration.

The Samoa event, coordinated by SPREP and the National University of Samoa, not only explained the key findings within these reports but also presented two panels to discuss how climate change has impacted upon the Pacific island region.

More information could be accessed from:

[Contribution of Working Group II to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change—Summary for Policymakers](#)

Key findings include the following:

- Current and future climate-related drivers of risk for small islands during the 21st century include sea level rise, tropical and extra – tropical cyclones, increasing air and sea surface temperatures and changing rainfall patterns (high confidence, robust evidence and high agreement).
- There is high attribution of some changes in the freshwater system to climate change (e.g. glacial melt, extreme rainfall).
- Despite mitigation efforts, anthropogenic GHG emissions grew more rapidly from 2000 to 2010 than in each of the previous three decades.

Climate-proof road opens in Kosrae, FSM

The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) celebrated a major achievement on 29 May, with the official opening of a climate-proof road on the island of Kosrae

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



Photo: Cutting the ribbon to open the climate-proof road.



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The PACC Project consists of 14 member countries; it is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). It is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Australian Agency for International Development with support from United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Climate Change Capacity Development (C3D+) Programme.

Over the past year SIDS Dock has been working on formalising its institutional structure by establishing itself as a treaty-based organisation.

SIDS Dock is an initiative among member countries of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and supported by their regional organisations to provide the SIDS with a collective institutional mechanism to transform their national energy sectors to catalyse sustainable development and help generate finance to address adaptation to climate change.

It is called SIDS DOCK because it is designed as a "DOCKing station," connecting the energy sector in SIDS with the global market for finance, technologies and to enable trade of the avoided carbon emissions in international carbon markets.

At a meeting in New York in April 2014, the final text of the "Statute Establishing the Small Island Developing States Sustainable Energy and Climate Resilience Organization" was accepted by the SIDS Dock Steering Committee for transmittal to Capitals. It is envisaged that a signing ceremony will be held during the 3rd International SIDS Conference in Samoa in September this year.

SIDS Dock is also planning several events to occur during that conference. More information can be found at the SPREP website or at <http://sidsdockforum2014.org/>

SIDS Dock is currently funding 9 projects in the region in FSM, RMI, Palau, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Samoa, Cook Islands and Kiribati, in cooperation with PIGGAREP and other regional partners.



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The Pacific Climate Change Portal partners with Griffith University for the Pacific iCLIM Project

In February 2014, SPREP and Griffith University became implementing partners for the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade funded Pacific iCLIM Project. The project runs till December 2016 and will work closely with the three pilot countries, Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu who have existing national climate change portals, the development of which was supported by the GIZ CCCPIR project.

The project inception workshop was held in Brisbane from 28 to 29 April followed by a symposium on 30 April. The meeting was well attended by the Australian agencies, DFAT, pilot country representatives and partner organisations such as SPC, GIZ and USP.

The SPREP – Griffith partnership was also strengthened with the signing of a five year memorandum of understanding between the organizations.



Participants at the Pacific iCLIM inception workshop in Brisbane, Australia

Over the period of five years the two organisations will collaborate on research, development and capacity building activities in the field of: climate change mitigation and adaptation policy and programmes, together with related information, technology and finance issues; development of best practices in environment and climate change management including waste management, coastal zone management, and integrated catchment management; Ecosystem-based approaches and biodiversity conservation; and the integration of traditional culture and knowledge into environment and climate change responses.

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Kiribati takes action against climate-sensitive diseases



Photo: European Union Commissioner Piebalgs inaugurates the Kiribati Public Health Laboratory

The European Union-funded and SPC-implemented GCCA: PSIS project assists Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu in incorporating climate change impacts into their infrastructure, policies and national budgets. The EUR 11.4 million project includes the implementation of pilot projects for national adaptation priorities.

Mr Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development; Dr Kautu Tenaua, Kiribati Minister of Health and Medical Services; and Mr Michael Petterson, Director of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's (SPC) Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (SOPAC) inaugurated the Kiribati Public Health Laboratory on 24 April 2014.

"This laboratory will allow the government to better control diseases whose incidence is being modified due to changes in climate patterns,"

Mr Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development

The Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Islands States (GCCA: PSIS) project in Kiribati enables the Public Health Division to monitor and respond to the changing incidence of food, water, and vector-borne diseases. This is accomplished through providing the Ministry of Health and Medical Services with the necessary laboratory infrastructure, equipment and training. Dr Tenaua commented, "The Public Health Laboratory refurbishment and related capacity-building activities are essential to safeguard the health of the I-Kiribati people, acknowledging that outbreaks of climate-sensitive diseases such as dengue fever, diarrhoea, and giardiasis are becoming more frequent."

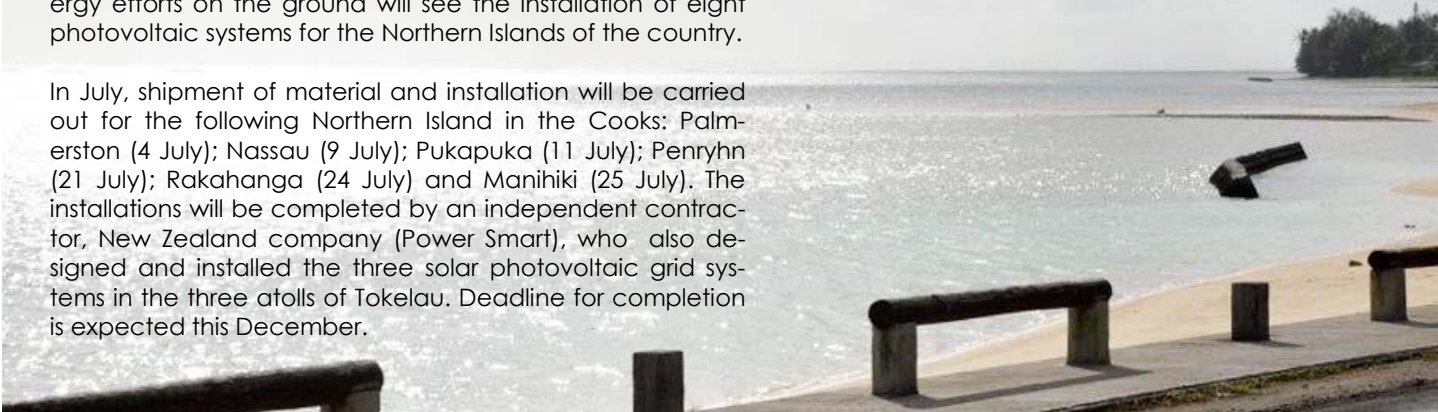
A snapshot of activity in renewable energy for the Cook Islands

The Cook Islands has been in the forefront of most international and regional negotiations on climate change issues. In January 2013, in Doha, the Cook Islands teamed up with over 190 parties to the UN Climate Change Convention to negotiate a vast range of climate change issues.

Regionally, the Cook Islands have actively advocated issues on climate change, particularly in the area of climate change adaptation and mitigation issues. Renewable Energy efforts on the ground will see the installation of eight photovoltaic systems for the Northern Islands of the country.

In July, shipment of material and installation will be carried out for the following Northern Island in the Cooks: Palmerston (4 July); Nassau (9 July); Pukapuka (11 July); Penryhn (21 July); Rakahanga (24 July) and Manihiki (25 July). The installations will be completed by an independent contractor, New Zealand company (Power Smart), who also designed and installed the three solar photovoltaic grid systems in the three atolls of Tokelau. Deadline for completion is expected this December.

Further support from New Zealand will also see a total of NZD25 million for the procurement and installation of the needed hardware for these Northern islands of the Cook Islands. This new support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is a spinoff of, and will build on the successful groundwork carried out by of the Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP) in the Cook Islands.



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Update—Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific



Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP) meetings were held in Suva, Fiji on the 2-4 June 2014.

The broad objective was to obtain the endorsement of disaster risk management stakeholders for the draft Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development (SRDP) and build consensus among diverse Pacific stakeholders on the elements and implementation of the HFA2 (the Post-2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction).

For more information: [Click here](#)

Photo: Vanua Levu, Fiji

Events in June 2014

Activity	Date	Location
AOSIS Adaptation & Loss and Damage Preparatory Meeting	30 May	Bonn Germany
AOSIS Preparatory Meeting	31 May – 1 June	
G77 Preparatory Meeting for UNFCCC SB40	2 – 3 June	
UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies Meeting	4 – 15 June	
AOSIS Loss and Damage meeting with Insurance and other Experts	16 June	
Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management Meeting & consultation on the SRDP	2 – 4 June	Suva, Fiji
FINPAC Baseline & MOU Discussions/Meeting with Red Cross & University of the South Pacific	2 – 5 June	
WARD Meeting	6 June	
Training of Trainers Course on Gender and CC based on the Pacific Gender and Climate Change Toolkit	16 – 18 June	
In country Assistance: PACC Fiji Management of Change in National Project Management Unit	16 – 20 June	
Tuvalu situation analysis in collaboration with GIZ, UNDP, ADB	16-23 June	Funafuti, Tuvalu
4 th GCCA SPC Steering Committee Meeting	17 – 27 June	Niue
Climate Investment Fund CIF 2014 Partnership Forum Session on the Adaptation Champions in the SIDS – June 24, 2014	23 – 24 June	Montego Bay, Jamaica
Pacific ICLIM Planning Meeting	26-27	Suva Fiji