

CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS

Issue 32 March 2015



Coastline on Nui atoll, Tuvalu
Photo: Amber Carvan/SPREP

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Director's Note



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Dear Readers,

It is a pleasure to share with CCM readers climate change activities from around the region.

This issue highlights the steep level of vulnerability Pacific island countries and territories are facing and also outlines some of the country commitments to reducing their vulnerabilities. I'm sure you are with me in congratulating these countries but we all understand this is only a tiny snapshot of national priorities. These priorities need to be up scaled and replicated to all communities with similar needs.

This month, the world will gather in Sendai, Japan for the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Pacific will be represented by several leaders and Cabinet Ministers with their delegations.

We, as a region, have been very proactive in reviewing our commitments to the *Hyogo Framework for Actions (2005-2015): Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* through the implementation of our own regional *Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action*.

The Pacific is also attending the Sendai conference where we will showcase the draft integrated strategy known as the "*Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP)*".

We are the first region in the world to fully integrate climate change and disaster risk management in a single overarching regional strategy which focuses on resilient development.

The SAMOA Pathway committed us to durable and sustainable partnerships, and the Pacific expects to make progress on that in Sendai for the implementation of the SRDP and the new global outcomes from Sendai.

'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:





SPREP and Nauru formalise agreement to support adaptation activities

A new Letter of Agreement has been signed between the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Republic of Nauru to support urgently needed climate change adaptation activities in the country.

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



SPREP-USAID project supports 'Tamana' pump community training in Kiribati

Five villages on Abaiang have been selected to undergo training in the operation and maintenance of the 'Tamana' pump. The locally designed pump is simple to operate and reduces contamination by allowing pumping from closed wells.

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



Walking the Weather talk in Samoa

Ensuring that local communities better understand terms such as "trough of low pressure", "convergence zone" and "cold frontal system", was at the core of communications and media training for the Samoa Meteorological Service and partners this week. The training was coordinated by the SPREP as part of a project funded by the Government of Finland.

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





Weathering food and nutrition security in the Pacific

The Regional Expert Roundtable on Climate Services for Agriculture and Food and Nutrition Security, held at SPREP, brought together a range of experts from the agricultural, climate change and weather sectors to provide guidance on how climate services can effectively contribute to food and nutrition security.

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



The realised importance of communication and knowledge management

2015 once again brought together member countries of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to the one day Pacific sub annual conference of the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) held at the SPREP campus in Samoa on the 25th of February, back to back with the Food Security forum which took place at the beginning of the week.

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



FINPAC Project Prepares to work with Epau Community in Vanuatu

In January 2015, SPREP and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Climate Centre met with the Vanuatu stakeholders to set up a National Coordination Team (NCT) to take on the role of implementing the Finnish-Pacific (FINPAC) project at the Epau community

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





Solomon Islands enables Internet with solar power

Can you imagine a day in the office without Internet or access to emails? This is the reality in many Pacific Islands states. Now Solomon Islands is changing this – through solar power. Telecommunications technologies have generated huge advancements in recent years. Not only can people now access all sorts of apps, the Internet, emails and the like right at their finger-tips.

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



SPC and European Union support South-South cooperation between Palau and Tonga

The first Palau-Tonga exchange to share lessons learnt about coastal protection measures has taken place. The exchange involved a delegation officials from the Republic of Palau, visiting Tonga to learn about methods to enhance the resilience to climate change of coastal communities in eastern Tongatapu.

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



Partnership results in climate and disaster resilience plan for Nauru

Nauru's Framework for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (RONAdapt) was developed through a collaborative effort between various regional organisations and development partners including the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the European Union.

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





Fisheries community consultation in coping with climate change in Samoa

The Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in Samoa is implementing scientific observations (ecological and biological status) of the marine environment and habitat restoration at selected sites both in Upolu and Savaii as one of the major components of the SPC/GIZ Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Islands Region (CCCPIR) programme.

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



MELAD team rescues green turtle in Abaiang, Kiribati

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CALENDAR—MARCH 2015 Activities	Date	Where
Melanesian Spearhead Group Environment and CC Symposium – Pacific Climate Change Portal Presentation	02 – 03 March	Port Vila, Vanuatu
In Country Assistance – Training and Development of the Media CC & DRM Plan for the Cook Islands	02 -08 March	Cook Islands
3 rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction	11 – 18 March	Sendai, Japan
Climate and Disaster Resilience Planning Workshop for Epau Villiage, Vanuatu	16 – 20 March	Port Vila, Vanuatu
Media and Communications Training for Vanuatu MET and Geo-Hazards Department	23 – 25 March	Port Vila, Vanuatu
GIZ CCCPIR Programme Evaluation Team Visit	23 – 26 March	Apia, Samoa
Pacific Gender & CC Training for Practitioners (and SPREP Staff)	23 – 28 March	Apia, Samoa