

CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS

Issue 12 — May 2013



South Coast of Savaii, Samoa. Photo: Carlo Iacovino

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Director's Note



Dr Netatua Pelesikoti

Climate Change Division Director, SPREP

Dear Readers

We have a story in this CCM about 'The Children Taking Action'. I found the article is inspiring in three ways.

Firstly, from the effort to build awareness and capacity of the young population of the Pacific.

Secondly, this initiative brought together many partners in the region dedicated to make sure the resource is suitable to Kiribati's situation and its school curriculum and provided

much needed support to both teachers and school children.

Lastly, the article challenges all of us to take actions to reduce climate change risks and impacts.

These issues are also behind the Pacific Meteorological Council, Pacific Climate Change Roundtable and the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management meetings that will take place 1st-11th of July 2013.

Enjoy reading!

About Us

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

1. Adaptation;
2. Mitigation; and
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:

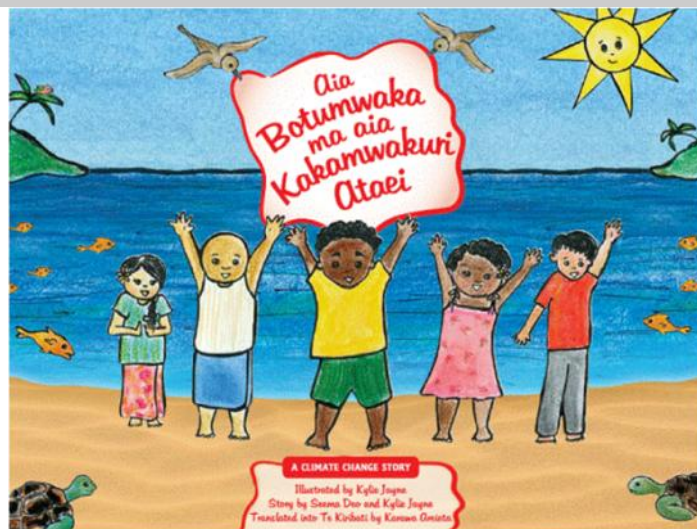
www.sprep.org/Climate-Change/climate-change-about-us

The Children Take Action – Kiribati Launches Children's Story Book in te-Kiribati

6,000 copies of the children's story book "The Children Take Action – a Climate Change Story" were today handed over to the Permanent Secretary for Education for delivery to all primary schools in Kiribati.

The Curriculum Development and Resource Centre (CDRC) will use the book to improve literacy skills in te-Kiribati and English. In addition, the story book will help children learn, in a very simplified way, the basics of climate change and its impacts on our environment.

[View full article](#)



Pacific Region Leading the Way

In July 2013, for the first time, the two main Pacific regional conferences on climate change and disaster risk management will come together as the Joint Meeting of the Pacific Platform for DRM and Pacific Climate Change Roundtable. The joint meeting will be held at the Sofitel in Nadi, Fiji.

This meeting will bring together a wide variety of stakeholders and interest groups, including Pacific national representatives at different levels of government, NGOs, civil society organisations, the private sector, the scientific community, regional, international and donor organisations and provide a platform for discussions on future actions and commitments.

"The Pacific was the first region in the world to take the Hyogo Framework and turn it into a region-wide planning instrument. Again it is taking the lead with the integration of climate change and disaster risk management. It is proof that the region is focused and pro-active"

Jerry Velasquez, UNISDR Asia and the Pacific

The banner features logos for SPC, UNISDR, and SPREP at the top. A central red circle with white text says "Click here to REGISTER NOW!". Surrounding this are five colored boxes with event details:

- 19th Regional Disaster Managers Meeting 1st - 3rd July
- Strategic Alliance Meeting of Pacific Islands Disaster, Fire & Emergency Services and Police 3rd - 5th July
- Pacific Climate Change Roundtable 3rd - 5th July
- Pacific Meteorological Council 1st - 5th July
- Pacific Regional Water & Sanitation Consultations 1st - 3rd July

The main event is the "Joint Meeting of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management and the Pacific Climate Change Round Table 8th - 11th July".

The Joint Meeting will benefit from the presence of Ms Margareta Wahlström, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and other international and Pacific high level representatives, including Ministers.

The Joint Meeting is also a significant event in the process for developing an integrated Pacific Regional Strategy on Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change by 2015. This overarching policy instrument is to be tabled before Pacific Leaders in 2015 and will replace the current two separate regional frameworks.

For more information and registration: [click here](#)

9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas

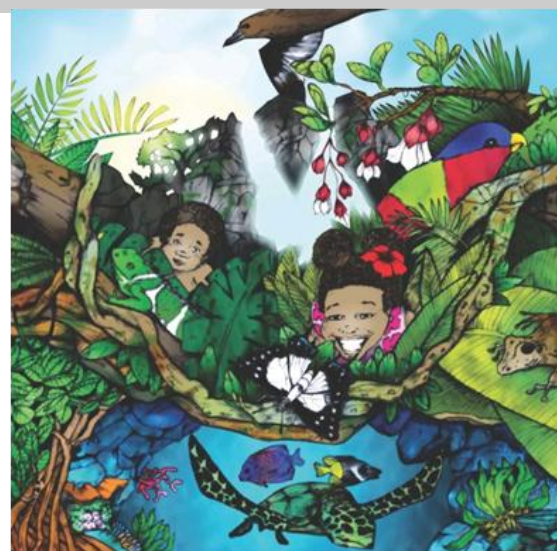
Suva, Fiji, 2-6 December 2013

The theme of the conference is Natural Solutions – Building Resilience for a Changing Pacific. This theme encompasses the concept of protecting and utilising the natural environment to provide sustainable solutions to the threats of climate change.

"The 9th Nature Conservation and Protected Areas conference, to be held in Fiji 2-6 December this year, is part of an ongoing process to develop and make relevant the region's conservation agenda that started in 1975."

Stuart Chape, Director of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management, SPREP

This Conference, which only occurs every 4-5 years, is the largest conservation-focused meeting in the Pacific and will bring together participants from many countries and interests, ranging from scientists, to politicians and community leaders. This year's event will be hosted by the Government of Fiji and organised by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in partnership with the International Union of the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as the current Chair of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT).



NATURAL SOLUTIONS
Building Resilience for a Changing Pacific

9th PACIFIC ISLANDS CONFERENCE ON NATURE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED AREAS

2-6 December 2013

VENUE: University of the South Pacific, Laucala Campus, Suva, Fiji

www.sprep.org/pacificnatureconference

For more information and registration: [click here](#)

Pacific delegates look to up-scaling climate finance in the Asia Pacific region

Delegates from selected Pacific Island countries, and representatives from SPREP and SPC, attended a workshop in Singapore this month (22 - 24 April) to share experiences and ideas on scaling up climate change financing for the Asia Pacific region. The workshop was co-hosted by the Singaporean Government and GIZ.

The workshop was intended to identify common solutions to address the challenges behind both accessing and managing climate change financing, and also provided participants with an update in international trends, including the status of the Green Climate Fund - a new fund recently set up under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) with the goal of providing 100 billion USD per year towards climate change, by 2020.

Mark Brown, Minister of Finance for the Cook Islands attended as a key note speaker and shared with the conference the unique challenges faced by Pacific Small Island Developing States. He stressing that in order for climate finance to work in the Pacific region, it has to be accessible, simple and country driven ideally build upon proven and existing in-country structures.



Western Province, Solomon Islands

The workshop acknowledged that while many new funds are being created, that there still remains a very large gap between funds needed and funds available. To this end, ideas were shared on possible new and innovative funding sources that would move away from a reliance purely on the public sector.

For more information regarding the conference and outcomes, please contact Diane McFadzien, Climate Change Adaptation Advisor: dianem@sprep.org

PACC surveys proposed site for road relocation in Vanuatu



VARSU Tribesmen & the PACC survey team 'half-way'

Following a successful Participatory 3-D model consultation, the PACC team selected VARSU area to commence the road relocation project. A fortnight later physical work to map out the new road took place on Apr 16th 2013 .

The VARSU area council on North Epi, Vanuatu is the first community to physically map out a new 10km road in the interior of the island under the PACC project, with the objective of having climate proof roads that will not be washed away at the coast, and to have better and safe access to markets.

The current 72km road from South through West to the North of Epi is located along the coast. A physical feature evident along this road is the continuous erosion of the road due to either heavy downpour resulting in landslides along road sides, running water drenching the road surface making it difficult to travel on, and ocean waves impact on the road sides, washing away the roads.

Thorough community awareness efforts have allowed milestone decisions to be reached and cooperation to take place in the project, this will lead to improved resilience and livelihoods in remote communities such as on Epi.

For more information, contact Taito Nakalevu, PACC Regional Project Manager: taiton@sprep.com

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.



Ecosystem-based adaptation in Vanuatu

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is working with the Department of Fisheries to implement an Ecosystem-based Adaptation project with communities at Siviri and Anelkhout in Vanuatu.

Implementing integrated coastal zone management planning to support the local Marine Protected Areas has been identified as one of the key objectives. In Vanuatu, 'tabu' areas, where fishing and harvesting of shellfish from the reef are banned, have long been part of the traditional management of community marine resources.

[View full article](#)

The Coastal Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA) to Climate Change project is implemented by the Vanuatu Department of Fisheries with technical assistance from SPREP and funded by the AusAID International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative (ICCAI).



Siviri village in Vanuatu

"If Marine Protected Areas have good coral reefs, good mangroves, these help in reducing climate change impacts"

Jason Raubani, Manager of the Management and Policy Division at the Vanuatu Department of Fisheries.

Cook Island receives EU support for climate change adaptation



Community representatives discussing climate change adaptation in the Cook Islands

Cook Islanders living on low-lying atolls are receiving on-the-ground climate change adaptation assistance from the European Union (EU) worth Euro 0.5 million (approx. NZD 0.8 million) over two years.

In consultation with communities, activities have been designed to improve the management of marine resources and increase the resilience of pearl farmers, artisanal and small scale commercial fishery operations to the adverse effects of climate change.

The assistance is delivered through the Secretariat of the Pacific Community – Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (SPC-GCCA: PSIS) project and will be implemented by the Cook Islands Government.

[View full article](#)

Community-owned micro-hydropower in the Solomons

Representatives of SPREP and the Governments of Vanuatu and the Solomon Government recently completed a study tour of Solomon Islands Community Owned Microhydrop projects.

One place visited was Bulelavata, a community on the New Georgia islands in Roviana Lagoon. A micro-hydropower system that was installed and commissioned in 2000 provides approximately 24kVA of electricity to around 100 households, one health clinic and Beulah High School.

The system is owned, operated and managed by the community. The project was developed and implemented through an NGO which later ceased to exist but the community contributed largely through free labour and supply of local materials at no cost.



Bulelavata Dam

In what the World Meteorological Organisation Secretary-General Michel Jarraud has described as "disturbing sign of climate change", the Arctic's sea ice melted at a record pace in 2012, which was the ninth-hottest year on record.

Compounding concerns about climate change were underscored by extreme weather such as Hurricane Sandy, the UN weather agency says. In a report on the world's climate in 2012, the WMO said on Thursday that during the August to September melting season, the Arctic's sea ice cover was just 3.4 million square kilometres. That was a full 18 per cent less than the previous record low set in 2007.

"The year 2012 saw many other extremes as well, such as droughts and tropical cyclones. Natural climate variability has always resulted in such extremes, but the physical characteristics of extreme weather and climate events are being increasingly shaped by climate change.

For example, because global sea levels are now about 20 centimetres higher than they were in 1880, storms such as Hurricane Sandy are bringing more coastal flooding than they would have otherwise."

Mr. Jarraud, World Meteorological Organisation
Secretary-General

October's Hurricane Sandy killed almost 300 people and caused major destruction in the Caribbean before developing further strength and causing tens of billions of dollars in damage and around 130 deaths in the eastern United States.

Typhoon Bopha, the deadliest tropical cyclone of the year, hit the Philippines twice in December, sparking floods and landslides which killed more than 1,000 people. The WMO said that the 2012 global land and ocean surface temperature was estimated to be 0.45C above the 1961-1990 average of 14.0C. That marked the ninth warmest year since records began in 1850 and the 27th consecutive year that the global land and ocean temperatures were above the 1961-1990 average, it



Jarraud noted that the rate of warming varies from year to year due to a range of factors, including the El Nino and La Nina weather phenomena - which see warming and cooling, respectively, in the Pacific Ocean - as well as volcanic eruptions. Last year's warming came despite a cooling La Nina at the beginning of the year.

"The sustained warming of the lower atmosphere is a worrisome sign. The continued upward trend in atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases and the consequent increased radiative forcing of the Earth's atmosphere confirm that the warming will continue."

Mr. Jarraud, World Meteorological Organisation
Secretary-General

Above-average temperatures were observed across most of the globe's land surface areas, most notably North America, southern Europe, western Russia, parts of northern Africa and southern South America. Parts of Asia as well as northern and eastern Australia, were cooler than usual due to the influence of the La Nina

For more information contact Neville Koop, Meteorology/Climatology Adviser: nevillek@sprep.org

Events in May 2013

Event	Location	Date
Pacific Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAS)	Fiji	01 – 03 May
SIDS DOCK Regional Meeting	Fiji	6 – 8 May
Nauru Met Service: In-country Assistance	Nauru	6 – 12 May
3rd Agro-MET Summit – Vanuatu	Vanuatu	20 – 24 May
Loss and Damage Meeting: Prepare PICs for UNFCCC Negotiations for Loss & Damage	Cook Islands	21 - 24 May