



CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS

Issue 29 — November 2014



*Coastal inundation, Teaoaraereke Village., Tarawa, Kiribati
October 2014. Photos: Claire Anterea Tangarao*

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"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,

The UNFCCC Conference of the Parties to be held in December 2014 in Lima, Peru is by far the most important climate change negotiation event of the year. Of significance for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are the process and content of a new legally binding instrument; ensuring SIDS representation on the Executive Committee for the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) on loss and damage; and ensuring that SIDS' interests are captured in the soon to be adopted Loss and Damage two year work programme. Of additional significance to Pacific delegations will be issues related to securing necessary levels of climate change finance and determining the content of the Initial Nationally Determined Contributions that all countries will be making, in terms of emission reductions pledges.

SPREP will be represented at this meeting by a team of five, which will work with other CROP agencies and partners to support Pacific island delegations in Lima.

As part of our efforts to ensure that Pacific delegates are well prepared, SPREP is partnering with Climate Analytics, through their High Level Support Mechanism (HLSM) project to convene a Pacific pre-COP meeting in Lima on 26 November. A circular to this effect has been sent by SPREP to all national climate change focal

points. This will allow the Pacific delegates to prepare for the important AOSIS pre-COP meeting over the following two days. Preparations have also begun at the national level in the region as can be seen by the report from the climate change seminar in Vanuatu.

In addition, SPREP, Climate Analytics and Charles and Associates, through the HLSM project (with support from the Governments of Germany, United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia) recently ran a four day workshop in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands to prepare Ministers and officials for this meeting (the full details are captured in the story below). The HLSM was set up to provide support to ministers and high-level officials from SIDS and LDCs in the climate change negotiations and related processes funded under the International Climate Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment. It is a collaborative effort by Climate Analytics and Charles and Associates. The Majuro meeting was again supported by partner agencies such as the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center.

SPREP wishes all the best to those delegates who will be in Lima in November/December, and is hopeful of a positive outcome.

'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:



IPCC report signals harsh realities for the Pacific

David Sheppard, Director General, SPREP says the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change summary report points towards huge climate change challenges.

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



SPREP and Marshall Islands agreement

A ground-breaking Letter of Agreement has been signed between the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands to support the development of urgently needed climate change adaptation activities.

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



Photo: King tide inundation in the Republic of the Marshall Islands

Pacific islands ready to develop proposals for multi-million dollar adaptation fund

Adaptation Fund has dedicated more than USD 232 million to increase climate resilience in 40 countries around the world. None of these are Pacific islands.

To help address this, a special workshop was held this month bringing regional representatives together to learn more about the Adaptation Fund, the project cycle and the Fund's application process.

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



Photo: Participants at the training



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Linking the right people to the right climate change interventions



A new programme designed to link technical experts working in the field of climate change and disaster risk management to the countries and projects that need them most was highlighted yesterday at the 25th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

Housed within the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience's Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM) provides an online portal through which technical experts can register their skills, and eligible countries can request technical assistance to support climate and disaster-related priorities in the Pacific region.

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

Photo: Dr Nefatua Pelesikofi and Ms Satui Bentin at the RTSM side event in Majuro.

Pacific Meteorological Services learn about lightning location for improved severe weather forecasting

Forecasters and technicians from across twelve National Meteorological Services in the Pacific gathered in Apia on 14 and 15 October to learn about lightning detection and how it can improve severe weather forecasting in the region.

As part of the Finland-Pacific (FINPAC) Project targeting 'reduced vulnerability of Pacific Island Countries' livelihood to the effects of Climate Change, SPREP and the Finnish Meteorological Institute jointly organised this regional workshop. Participants were also able to experience hands-on training on locating lightning caused incidents based on a given data set.

The FINPAC Project will provide a direct data feed for Tonga, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Solomon Islands while internet-based products will be made available to the rest of the participating countries. Lightning location data will be provided in near-real time to assist forecasters in determining the exact location and intensity of tropical cyclones and strong thunderstorms. The data is important for electricity transmission companies that can use it to save on maintenance costs for power lines and for civil aviation authorities.

This service is a milestone in the Pacific and will serve as a platform for developing a sustainable lighting system for the region in the future.

The workshop was made possible through funding from the Government of Finland

Photo: Public domain image



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Pacific Climate Change Portal (PCCP) and Pacific iCLIM regional updates

The PCCP team was invited to present on the topic "Resilience and Adaptation Planning in the Pacific: The importance of effective data and information management" during the "Communicating climate science and adaptation" session on Day 2 of the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility Conference held at the Gold Coast in Australia from 30 September to 2 October, 2014.

The presentation was well received by participants who were not aware of the impacts of climate change in the Pacific region. The participation of the PCCP team was made possible through the SPREP and Griffith University partnership.

In partnership with the Vanuatu Program Management Unit, Griffith University and SPREP, the Pacific iCLIM team facilitated the Vanuatu Data Sharing Workshop for government departments who managed climate change data on the 23rd of October in Port Vila. The workshop was attended by representatives from the Vanuatu Statistics, Lands, Disaster and Geohazard and Meteorology offices. A similar workshop will be held in Fiji in mid-November.

Pacific Climate Change Portal (PCCP) Statistics

Content Type	Volume
Documents	1240
Projects	150
Events	500
News	1760
Image Gallery	433
Video Gallery	140
Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM) Roster of Experts	51



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Photo: Mr Peniamina Leavai (right) with Mr Joseph Cain (centre) and Mr Abraham Simpson (left) at the event

Adaptation stories from the northern Pacific

The PACC programme is the first major climate change adaptation initiative in the Pacific region. Since it began in 2009 the programme has been demonstrating best-practice adaptation.

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

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Applying cost-benefit analysis in FSM

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) partnered with key agencies in the region to deliver a specialised cost-benefit analysis training workshop for government officials in Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia.

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



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Photo: Workshop trainers and participants in Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia



Photo: Negotiation training session

Amplifying Pacific voices in climate negotiations

Ministers and officials from 14 Pacific island countries have attended specialised training to ensure that their individual and collective voices will be heard loudly, clearly and convincingly at upcoming climate change negotiations in Lima and Paris.

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

Vanuatu climate change awareness seminar

The Vanuatu National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction has partnered with SPREP and the Vanuatu Climate Change Network (VCAN was supported by Australia in this partnership) to deliver a 3 day seminar during Vanuatu's National Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Week. The Director General of the Ministry of Climate Change, Mr Jotham Napat, opened the seminar.

The seminar was an opportunity to learn more about the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change from Vanuatu climate change officials and supported by Espen Ronneberg, Climate Change Advisor at SPREP. An additional focus of the seminar was to consider how Vanuatu can improve its engagement at the international level to lobby for key outcomes in Climate Change negotiations.



Photo: Participants in Vanuatu

The seminar ran from 15 to 17 October at the Vanuatu Meteorological and Geohazard Department and was open for participation from interested community members and business representatives, government and non government stakeholders, civil society, community groups, youth and students. Around 40 participants attended from these groups.

The agenda covered introduction to the FCCC process, a typical day at the FCCC COP, preparing national briefs and statements and how international level decisions could impact positively or negatively on Vanuatu priorities on climate change. In addition, participants worked in small groups to draft position papers and discussed the issue of loss and damage and its implications for Vanuatu. Through the seminar, recommendations were also discussed for enhancing communication and participation by all stakeholders in the formulation of national climate change positions and priorities.



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Agroforestry training builds capacity of farmers in Tuvalu (EU SPC GCCA PSIS)

The Tuvalu agroforestry project is part of the regional SPC-GCCA: PSIS project, an € 11.4 million regional project supporting nationally-led climate change adaptation initiatives in nine Pacific countries.

A four-day training on designing agroforestry systems, methods of composting, transplanting and grafting seedlings was held from 8 - 13 October in Funafuti.

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

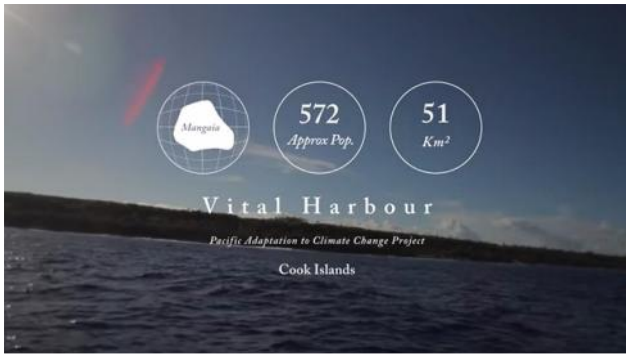


Photo: The training session in Tuvalu

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'Vital Harbour' film launch at SIDS 2014



The Cook Islands launched "Vital Harbour", a short film that makes up part of the Vital Series developed under the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa during the UN SIDS Meeting in September.

The launch event also showcased a video documentary from Niue on a number of different activities, including the production

and distribution of water tanks, to strengthen access to water on the island nation. The Niue video highlighted the successful partnership between the Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project which is funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Organisation (SPREP) and PACC.

Presenters that made up the panel of the side event included Dr. Netatua Pelesikoti of SPREP, Mr. Haoliang Xu of UNDP, Dr Josie Tamae of Niue, Mr. Haden Talagi of Niue, Mr. Paul Moate of the Cook Islands and Ms. Tuaine Tuara who represented the private sector in Mangaia. The topics discussed addressed the practical challenges of the infrastructure and water sector to adapt; incorporating gender into climate change; use of climate information in decision and policy making and partnerships and the way forward.

To watch the 'Vital Harbour' film: [Click here](#)

Marshall Islands holds first National Climate Change Dialogue

The Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination successfully hosted the first National Climate Change Dialogue (NCCD) on 9 and 10 September. The two-day event recorded an impressive turnout with around 320 people attending. Also in attendance was the President of the Marshall Islands, His Excellency Mr Christopher Loeak, who was keen to hear his people's thoughts and recommendations for future action with regard to climate change.

The Dialogue consisted of two events which were open to the general public: a town hall event addressing the long term future of the Marshall Islands in the context of climate change, and a workshop to share information on climate change policies, plans and actions. Responses received during the Dialogue indicated that a good number of people in the Marshall Islands have a bleak outlook for the future. They believe that climate change will destroy their homeland and they will have to resort to migration which will impact their culture and heritage.

The Dialogue identified the next step for the Marshall Islands which is to engage in wider and better coordinated climate change education and awareness. In his closing speech, the Director Waan Aelon in Majel, Mr Alson Kelen, noted that, "...very little information is going out to the people. There are workshops being conducted in here but the information stops at the door...". There is an urgent need to improve climate change education and awareness.

Support for the event was provided by the European Union funded Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project which is implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. The GCCA: PSIS adaptation project in the Marshall Islands focuses on enhancing coastal protection and part of this involves supporting national stakeholder dialogue and planning to reduce risks from climate change and extreme events.

For the full NCCD report: [Click here](#)



Photo: National Climate Change Dialogue in the Marshall Islands

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Kathy jetnil- Kijiner of the Marshall Islands



Following the official close of the 25th SPREP Meeting in Majuro, delegates and SPREP staff were treated to a celebration hosted by the President, The Hon. Mr Christopher Loek.

For many, one of the highlights of this special function was the chance to meet 26 year old Marshallese poet – Kathy jetnil-Kijiner – and to hear her perform the poem that wowed global leaders at the World Climate Summit in New York only the week before.

Ms jetnil-Kijiner was one of just four people chosen from 544 nominees to address Ban Ki-Moon's global assembly on climate change in New York. Addressing the official summit opening, jetnil-Kijiner performed a poem called Dear Matafele Peinem, written in the form of an ode to her young daughter.

In the poem, she urges world leaders to take fast and meaningful action on climate change, and references the global groundswell of support for such action. Reducing many to tears with her stirring and impassioned performance, jetnil-Kijiner received a standing ovation during which her partner and baby daughter joined her on the stage.

To read more, see the [final story in SPREP Tok](#)

Events in November 2014

Activity	Date	Where
In country Assistance - FCCC LEG Workshop on National Adaptation Plans	03 – 07 Nov	Vanuatu
5th COSPPac Steering Committee Meeting	06 – 11 Nov	Melbourne, Australia
Capacity Building Seminar on Collaborate Approaches and Solutions to Disasters Management challenges for SIDS	10 – 12 Nov	Singapore
In Country Assistance: GUAN Inspection with UKMET	11 – 13 Nov	Tuvalu
In Country Assistance: GUAN Inspection with UKMET	17 – 20 Nov	Kiribati
Fiji Data Sharing Workshop	17 – 21 Nov	Fiji
In Country Assistance: GUAN Inspection with UKMET	21 – 25 Nov	Cook Islands
In Country Assistance: USAID-SPREP Project implementation in Abaiang	23 Nov – 05 Dec	Kiribati
UNFCCC COP 20 (inclusive of AOSIS and G77 preparatory meetings)	24 Nov – 14 Dec	Lima, Peru
	28 Nov – 09 Dec	
WMO International Conference on Climate Services	10 – 12 Dec	Montevideo, Uruguay