

UN SIDS 2014 Closing Ceremony

Photos: SPREP (top)

NB-IISD (bottom)

# CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS

Issue 28 —October 2014



Director's Note and About Us	2
SIDS DOCK Special	3
SIDS challenged to invest in climate services	3
'Vital Harbour' launch	4
SIDS & Pacific Resilience Showcase	4
Renewable energy: The wind beneath our wings	5
The Solomon Islands way	6
Natural solutions	6
IFRC and SPREP sign partnership & Involve communities and the media	7
Weatherfront & Monthly calendar	8



## CLIMATE CHANGE DIVISION

SPREP, Apia, Samoa

T: +685 21929

E: [climatechange@sprep.org](mailto:climatechange@sprep.org)

W: [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org)

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## Director's Note



**Dr Netatua Pelesikoti**

Climate Change Division Director  
SPREP

Dear Readers,

Many genuine and durable partnerships were celebrated, confirmed or renewed at the recent United Nations Small Island Developing States (SIDS) conference, held last month in Samoa.

SIDS closed on a very high note and our visitors to the shores of Samoa were impressed with almost everything! The venue, the culture, the hospitality, the food and the weather. Keeping the momentum of SIDS moving forward depends on you and me as SIDS was very much about us all as small island developing states.

SPREP is keeping the momentum of SIDS alive, kicking off with a regional workshop held last week at the Secretariat campus where the Kyoto Protocol Adaptation Fund (AF) was involved to clarify approved processes for developing and submitting projects to be funded by the AF. Participants from around the region were taken through the whole cycle of Adaptation Fund project development. A staff of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) responsible for the Asia-Pacific Region also presented on the status of the GCF and on up and coming opportunities for the region through their Readiness Programme. It is envisaged that the fund will be operational in November 2014 .

UNEP Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), in partnership with SPREP, ran a day and a half workshop on how they could support PICs through technical assistance related to both adaptation and mitigation technology transfer and development.

In the true spirit of partnership, last week's work was also supported by generous contributions by the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN); Secretariat of the Pacific Community through the European Union funded Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) Small Island States project; and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

This CCM edition is dedicated to the recent SIDS conference. Hope you enjoy the pictures!

'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.
- 4.

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](http://www.sprep.org/Climate-Change/climate-change-about-us)

We kindly acknowledge the following donors and partners:



## SIDS DOCK SPECIAL: A Stunning Development in Samoa

Leaders of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have been challenged to prioritise investment in their meteorology and climate services because the end profit saves lives and properties.

The opening for signature of this historic SIDS DOCK Treaty – a SIDS-SIDS Initiative - was a major highlight of the first day of the United Nations (UN) Third International Conference on SIDS, that took place in Apia, Samoa, from 1-4 September.

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



Photo: Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa  
Hon. Fonotoe Nuafesili Pierre Laufo



David Sheppard, Director General, SPREP addresses the Plenary at UN SIDS 2014 (Photo: Nanette Woonton)

To read the full statement: [Click here](#)

## SIDS challenged to invest in climate services

Leaders of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have been challenged to prioritise investment in their meteorology and climate services because the end profit saves lives and properties.

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



Photo: Technical panel discussion titled "Managing Cyclones from Cuba to Samoa"

## Cook Islands 'Vital Harbour' launched at SIDS

Amidst resonating drum beats, and cultural island dancers, the Cook Islands launched 'Vital Harbours' a short film that makes up part of a series developed under the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project (PACC).

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



Photo: Attendees including Cook Islands Prime Minister Hon. Henry Puna, Mr. Haoliang Zu, UNDP Director of Regional Bureau for Asia Pacific and Cook Island dancers at this special SIDS Side Event.

## Pacific Resilience Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP)

The work of the Pacific in integrating climate change and disaster risk management was showcased at this SIDS side event, Building Pacific Resilience – the Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP). The Government of Tonga led the event with support from the UNISDR.

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



Photo: Prime Minister of Tonga Lord Tu'ivakanō



Photo: Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom, Mr. David Sheppard, Tagaloa Cooper

## Renewable energy: The wind beneath our wings



Photo: Mr Wairarapa Young (EPC), Ms Mina Weydahl (UNDP) and Mr Nixon Kua (SPREP) at the opening of Samoa's first wind farm.

### Energising SIDS

Renewable energy was a hot topic on the agenda at UN SIDS 2014.

Samoa's Prime Minister highlighted the critical importance of renewable energy to the future of small island developing states. Speaking at the opening of Samoa's first wind farm at Aleipata, Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi made reference to the historical relevance of Samoa's easterly trade winds to the people of our islands, and the importance of harnessing this natural source of energy to preserve our future.

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

### PIGGAREP at SIDS

The Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP) was one of several key activities highlighted at Saturday's Renewable Energy Forum in Apia.

This event was organised by the Governments of Samoa and New Zealand, and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) as part of the official pre-conference programme for UN SIDS 2014.

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



Photo: Samoa's first wind farm at Aleipata

## The Solomon Islands show us a better way

The Deputy Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, Hon. Manasseh Maelanga, stood in front his audience at the 2014 SIDS conference to address an issue that can impact upon many developing countries.

The Deputy Prime Minister showed his obvious pride when he spoke of a partnership that is "a bold step away from the usual approach" and "a success story in its own right".

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



Photo: (left) Deputy Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, Hon. Manasseh Maelanga and (right) Dr. Melchior Mataki Permanent Secretary Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster and Meteorology, Solomon Islands

## Strengthening Natural Solutions in the Pacific region

A 5-year, €5 million project titled 'Natural Solutions to Climate Change in the Pacific Islands Region: Implementing Ecosystem-based Adaption', has been signed on the cusp of the 3rd International Conference of SIDS. The project was signed between the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB).



Photo: Signing the new agreement

Known as Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) Project, the project will strengthen Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA) through activities in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

For the full article:

[Click here](#)



## IFRC and SPREP sign partnership to improve climate information and reduce

During SIDS 2014, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) signed a historic partnership agreement that aims to improve the way in which weather and climate information is delivered, understood and acted on, by communities living with the everyday impacts of climate change.

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



Photo: Signing of partnership agreement between IFRC and SPREP

## Involve communities and the media in communicating climate information

Early lessons gained from a regional project to strengthen the link between National Meteorological Service and the communities indicate the need to communicate weather information and how it impacts the population in a simple and timely manner.

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



Photo: Signing of partnership agreement between IFRC and SPREP

# Weatherfront How Weather and Climate Services are Protecting Small Island Communities

BBC World cameras were focused on a group of SIDS leaders as they took part in a televised panel discussion on the need to strengthen weather and climate services for small island nations.

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



## Events in October 2014

Activity	Date	Where
4 <sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum	29 Sept – 04 Oct	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
NCCARF Conference	29 Sept – 04 Oct	Brisbane, Australia
25 <sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting	30 Sept – 02 Oct	Marshall Islands
2 <sup>nd</sup> Pacific HLSM Preparatory Meeting for UNFCCC Conference of the Parties	04 – 08 Oct	Marshall Islands
3 <sup>rd</sup> Capacity Building Workshop for NPORMS	06 – 08 Oct	Kyoto, Japan
Cost Benefit Analysis training workshop – PPCR Component 1	06 – 09 October	Kosrae, FSM
GIZ ASCE Steering Committee and WARD Meeting	13 – 14 Oct	Suva, Fiji
Vanuatu Negotiations Training for UNFCCC COP 20	13 – 17 Oct	Vanuatu
FINPAC Lighting Location Worksop	14 – 15 Oct	SPREP, Samoa
PCCP Advisory and Technical Committee Meeting	15 – 16 Oct	Suva, Fiji
FINPAC: Baseline Survey & Climate and Disaster Resilience Assessment	20 – 24 Oct	Tonga