



# CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS

Issue 26 — August 2014

*Siviri coastline, Vanuatu  
(photo: Carlo Jacovino)*

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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  
SPREP

Dear Readers,

The next time I will be reaching you through our newsletter – Climate Change Matters – will be after the Third SIDS Conference in Samoa in early September! Our region and SIDS around the world are anticipating commitments to genuine and durable partnerships to addressing SIDS issues together.

Happening this last week of July in Nadi, are the final multipartite reviews and Board meetings of the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project and the Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement Project through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP). PACC is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Government of Australia through UNDP and executed by SPREP. PIGGAREP is also funded by GEF and implemented by UNDP and SPREP. Both PACC and PIGGAREP end this year.

All 13 of the 14 PACC participating countries met their targets of integrating climate risks and resilience in their national and sector plans. An average of 2 policy changes that aim to enhance vulnerability-reduction benefits have been put in place at the national level per country. Collectively, 24 national policies, legal instruments (bills, acts), policy frameworks, institutional establishment strategies have been developed. At the sectoral level, approximately 17 sector-focused strategies, frameworks and sector-based regulations, and sector-based institutions have been developed, debated and evolved as a result of the PACC project. At the community level - an average of 31 community development plans, guidelines, by-laws in regulating and controlling natural resource use have been developed with active

participation of men and women in grass-roots communities, through the 14 PICTS.

The PIGGAREP projects have and will be impacting more than 50,000 beneficiaries (men, women, boys and girls) from 44 national projects in 10 PICs (excluding PNG). In addition, there were 15 regional workshops and training activities conducted for 11 PIGGAREP member countries (including PNG). The training is on sharing knowledge about renewable energy best practices and lessons learnt in the countries; wind data analysis; project proposal drafting and actual hands-on experience in installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) grid connect systems. PIGGAREP's intervention had led to the uptake of solar PV system in the Cook Islands by the Pacific Environment Facility (PEF) Fund for the actual hardware; and the installation of a total of 546 kW solar PV grid connect system in Samoa.

On the GHG emission Reduction side, up until the end of June 2014, more than 17,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> has been avoided in emission and a more than 600,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> is anticipated to be avoided when most of the project activities come into actual operation by the second half of 2014 and 2015.

I can't go into details here due to space limitation but I hope I have sparked your interest to visit the [www.pacificclimatechangeportal.net](http://www.pacificclimatechangeportal.net) and the [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org) to find out about the knowledge products and results from PACC and PIGGAREP.

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

We kindly acknowledge the following donors and partners:



## Final PACC annual review meeting

Delegates have gathered in Nadi for the final annual review meeting of the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) programme. The week-long meeting brings together representatives of the 14 participating countries, the funding and implementing agencies, and technical specialists who are supporting project and programme activities.

As the programme prepares for closure in December, this final meeting is an excellent opportunity to review and share successes and challenges, and lessons for the future.

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



Photo: PACC Annual Review participants



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## Global campaign launched to improve weather and climate services for small island developing states (SIDS)



A global campaign to improve weather and climate services for all small island developing states was launched today with the support of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and Digicel Pacific.

The Small Islands, Weather Together campaign ([www.weathertogether.org](http://www.weathertogether.org)) aims to show how the small island developing states of the world can work together to improve their vital weather and climate services.

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

## PIGGAREP Coordinators receive awards for communicating success stories

A popular component of the recent Multipartite Review (MPR) meeting for the Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP) was the presentation of special awards to PIGGAREP Coordinators from Cook Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu.

The awards were handed out as part of a project-wide competition for PIGGAREP Coordinators to present a 'success story' from their suite of activities by way of a short story, photo essay or video.

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

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## Tuvalu Meteorological Service (TMS) staff attend On-Site Training Programme of the Pacific International Training Desk (Pacific Desk)

Elifaleti Ene and Richard Gokrun of TMS spent 4 weeks at the University of Hawaii Manoa (UHM) campus receiving training on topics including: Tropical Meteorology; Weather Analysis; Forecasting; and Communication Systems.

The On-Site Training Programme is intended to prepare observers to understand the forecast process, learn fundamental variables and skills required for forecasting, and provide an opportunity for basic hands-on work with meteorological analysis and predictions, and communication systems.

It prepares trainees to return to their home country for further operational forecasting experience. The Pacific Desk is intended as an early step in initial forecasting training and preparing trainees for lengthier and more advanced training programs.

Elifaleti Ene and Richard Gokrun were the first trainees selected to attend the 4-week training programme launched June 15, 2014 at the UHM. The Pacific Desk is funded by the US National Weather Service (NWS) International Activities Office, and hosted by the UH Telecommunications and Social Informatics Research Program (UH TASI) in collaboration with the NWS Pacific Region and NWS Honolulu Forecast Office.

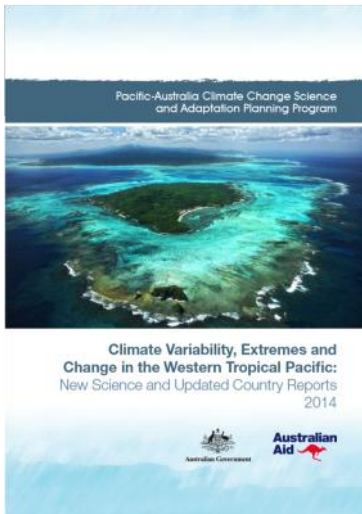


**Front Row L-R: Ray Tanabe, Regional Director, NWS Pacific Region; Richard Gokrun, Cohort 1 - Tuvalu Met Service; Elifaleti Ene, Cohort 1 - Tuvalu Met Service; Tom Evans, Meteorologist-In-Charge NWS Honolulu Forecast Office. Standing L-R: Joe Aquino, Operator, UH TASI; Thomas Okamura, Instructor, Pacific Desk; Sean Okamoto, Project Assistant, Pacific Desk; Jennifer Strahl, Instructor, Pacific Desk; LTJG G. Carl Noblitt IV, Pacific Region Climate Change Officer, Pacific ENSO Applications Center; Christina Higa, Director, Pacific Desk; Thomas Vaughan, Hollings Scholar and NOAA Intern; H. Gingerlel Porter, Associate Director, Pacific Desk.**

The Pacific Desk acknowledges all the partners, organisations and experts, past and present who have contributed to the re-launching of the programme.



Visit our website for more information: <http://pacificdesk.org/>  
More pictures on our facebook: [www.facebook.com/PacificDesk](http://www.facebook.com/PacificDesk)



### Climate Variability, Extremes and Change in the Western Tropical Pacific: New Science and Updated Country Reports 2014

Climate Variability, Extremes and Change in the Western Tropical Pacific: New Science and Updated Country Reports 2014 was released by the Pacific-Australia Climate Change Science and Adaptation Planning (PACCSAP) Program on Friday 11 July.

This technical report documents the latest scientific understanding of large-scale climate processes, observations, extremes and projections in the western tropical Pacific, designed to inform decision-making for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the region. This report builds on the research published in Climate Change in the Pacific: Scientific Assessment and New Research, Volumes 1 & 2 (2011) and provides updated individual country reports for 14 Pacific Island Countries and Timor-Leste, featuring the latest CMIP5-based global climate model outputs.

[Click here to access all the full report or individual country chapters](#)

### Talking about the weather in Niue

The Niue Meteorological Service has completed a two day workshop this month led by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to help enhance their media and communication skills. Funding was provided by the Government of Finland.

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



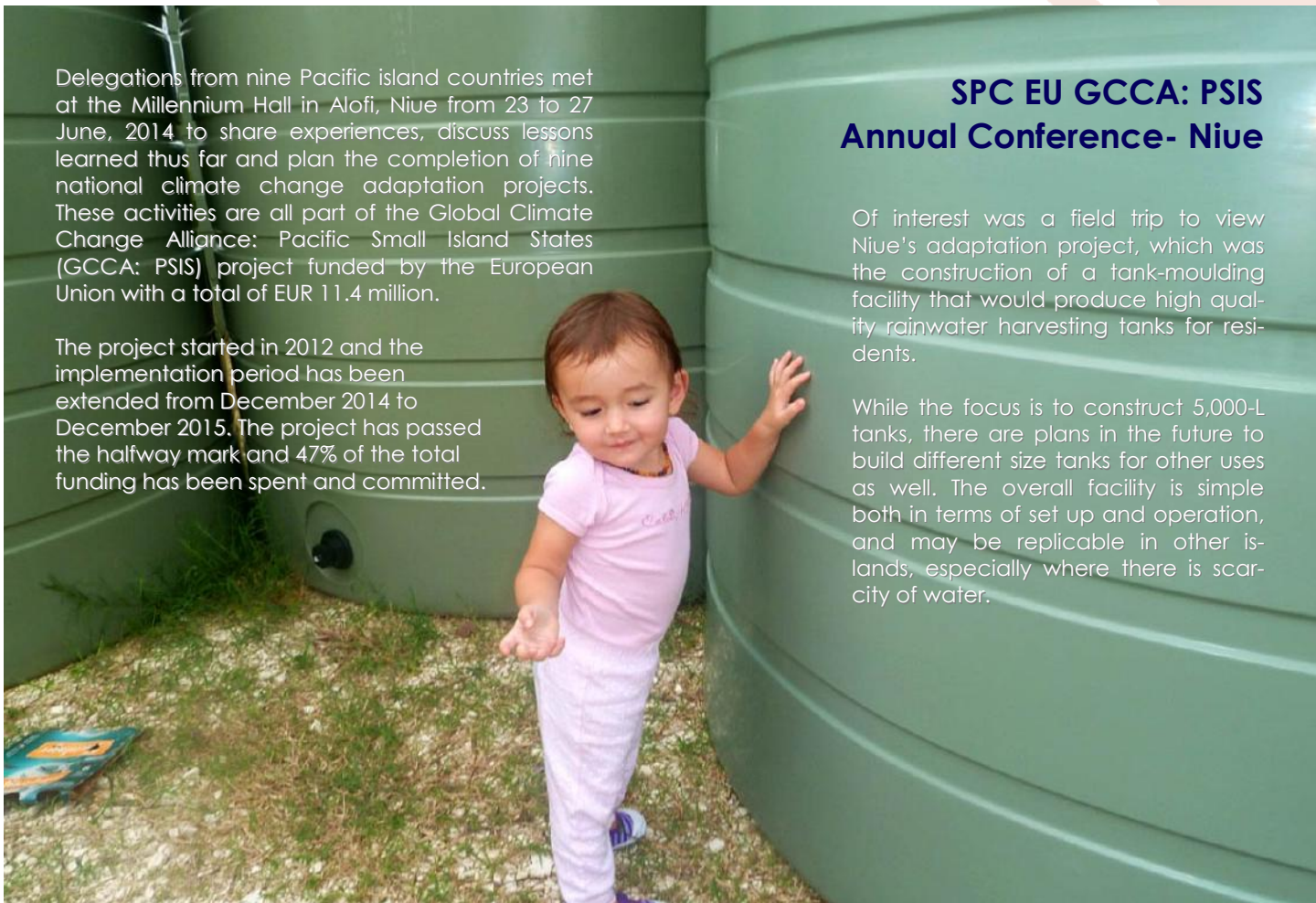
Delegations from nine Pacific island countries met at the Millennium Hall in Alofi, Niue from 23 to 27 June, 2014 to share experiences, discuss lessons learned thus far and plan the completion of nine national climate change adaptation projects. These activities are all part of the Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project funded by the European Union with a total of EUR 11.4 million.

The project started in 2012 and the implementation period has been extended from December 2014 to December 2015. The project has passed the halfway mark and 47% of the total funding has been spent and committed.

## SPC EU GCCA: PSIS Annual Conference- Niue

Of interest was a field trip to view Niue's adaptation project, which was the construction of a tank-moulding facility that would produce high quality rainwater harvesting tanks for residents.

While the focus is to construct 5,000-L tanks, there are plans in the future to build different size tanks for other uses as well. The overall facility is simple both in terms of set up and operation, and may be replicable in other islands, especially where there is scarcity of water.



## Tuvalu prepares for the post-2020 International Climate Change Agreement

Consultations are happening in Tuvalu to seek input from government and community representatives, on how a new International Climate Change agreement (under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) might best serve their interests.

As an atoll country, climate change is an issue of high concern to Tuvalu. As such, it is especially important that the new treaty, currently being discussed through the UNFCCC process, adequately meets their needs.

Ministry of Environment officials are holding consultations in a week long workshop (July 23 to 25th) with national stakeholders to talk through the different elements that this treaty would provide, including climate change mitigation goals, adaptation, how to address loss and damage caused by climate change, and how Tuvalu's interests could best be supported through climate change finance, technology and capacity building support.



**For more information on this workshop, please contact  
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## Regional IGOs from ACP meet to discuss Lima preparations



Participants of the Intra-ACP Joint Policy Dialogue at the Pacific Harbor, Fiji  
(Photo by ACP Secretariat)

Under the EU Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) intra-ACP programme, a meeting was convened in Pacific Harbour, Fiji to discuss joint policy positions for the ACP regions at the upcoming UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Lima, Peru. Representatives of regional inter-governmental organisations from Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) held discussions based on regional perspectives and experiences, and sought to develop a framework on how a joint position paper may be drafted. A meeting of the ACP Ambassadors will finalise the paper in Brussels, for later transmittal to ACP delegations attending the Lima Conference.

The meeting provided a good opportunity to share experiences and lessons learned. A field trip to the USP-GCCA project site in Daku village also provided an opportunity to share best practices and allowed the other regions to suggest approaches to the project team.

A range of key elements were identified as points to be put forward to the ACP Meeting of Ambassadors for endorsement. It was also agreed that an early opportunity be given for regions to provide input to the meeting of the Committee of Ambassadors once the agenda is finalised and clear on what input will be required. GCCA will invite negotiators to the ACP preparatory meeting at ACP Secretariat with the possibility to invite others including regional representatives and other partners.



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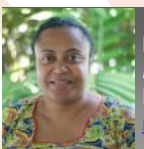
## The Pacific iCLIM and Pacific Climate Change Portal team begin national consultations

The Pacific iCLIM and PCCP team commenced implementation of the project activities in May by carrying out national consultations with the 3 pilot countries. The team visited Vanuatu in May to work with the Project Management Unit. In June they visited Fiji to work with the Climate Change Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and in July to work with the Climate Change Unit of Tonga.

The objective of the missions to the pilot countries were to: (i) introduce the iCLIM project to the Government Climate Change Unit; (ii) Develop a national level work plan for national involvement in the iCLIM project; and (iii) Meet with national stakeholders to overview and discuss the iCLIM project and national involvement.

Over the coming months the team will focus on the PCCP upgrade and, in particular, the integration of national portals to the regional portal.

www.pacificclimatechange.net



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## Pacific Islands Climate Services Dialog: Preserving Freshwater Resources and Minimizing the Impacts of Drought

U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), is conducting a series of dialogs to enhance scientific and technical capacity to support climate change adaptation in the Pacific Small Island Developing States.

These activities include the development and delivery of new or enhanced products and services that focus on climate issues critical to the region and respond to unique user needs.

With the potential for an El Nino event, preserving freshwater resources and minimizing the impacts of drought has been identified as an issue of concern.

This most recent dialog was held at Governor Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Centre July 17 -18 in American Samoa attended by climate experts and community water managers and planners, agro-forestry resource managers, disaster risk managers and other decision makers from American Samoa, Samoa, Tonga, and Fiji.

During the dialog, participants described their existing water resource management situation, diagnosed existing climate warning systems including seasonal climate-related science and information used to forecast climate-related events and make decisions, and explored best practices to preserve freshwater resources and minimize the impacts of drought with an emphasis on ENSO.

The two day dialog resulted in building climate stories as a means to outline key messages and best practices for water resource management and to improve the generation of accurate, timely and regionally-relevant forecasts that helps to preserve fresh water resources and minimize the impacts of drought.



Photo: Participants : ( L to R ) Hans Malala (American Samoa), Mulipola Ausetalia Titiamaea (Samoa) & Tile Tile Jr Tofaeno (Samoa)

### Events in August 2014

Activity	Date	Location
2014 Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meetings	29 July – 1 August	Koror, Palau
SmartMET Training	04 – 08 August	SPREP, Apia
Meeting with IUCN (Suva) and SPTO (Suva) on RE Tourism Project	04 - 06 August	Suva, Fiji
Training for Financial Institutions in PICTs – Tuvalu	04 – 08 August	Tuvalu
Quality Management Services Workshop	11 – 14 August	Nadi, Fiji
Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific – Steering Committee Meeting	11 – 13 August	SPREP
Pacific Preparatory Meeting for UN Convention on Biological Diversity	11 – 15 August	Nadi, Fiji
Pacific Panel Meeting	15 – 16 August	Nadi, Fiji
Palau Joint National Adaptation Plan (JNAP) Meeting	18 – 22 August	Koror, Palau
Samoa Science Forum	25 - 27 August	Apia
Climate Change Finance Week	25 – 29 August	Lima, Peru
Youth Forum – Pre SIDS Forum	25 -29 August	Apia