

CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS

Issue 25 — July 2014

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SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

"The Pacific Environment—sustaining our livelihoods and natural
heritage in harmony with our cultures"

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Director's Note



Dr Netatua Pelesikoti
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We are counting down the days before the 2014 Samoa SIDS meeting - practically less than two months before the Government and people of Samoa welcome the world to her beautiful shores. The rest of the Pacific island countries and territories should join Samoa in being proud and happy to host this United Nations high powered event.

Samoa will be representing the Pacific cultures and hospitality in addition to drawing the attention of the world to the unique opportunities and challenges of Small Island States.

One of those challenges will undoubtedly be climate change, climate variability and disaster risks. I believe the PICTs have good traction on adaptation and mitigation to showcase and to demonstrate how it could be done.

Similarly, we also have climate change challenges yet to be addressed with adequate resources in terms of building capacity, technology transfer and more integrated approaches covering governance, ecological, economic, social and political development goals for all governments and the people of the Pacific.

SPREP is involved in a lot of preparation leading up to the SIDS not only in many partnerships but also in support of the Government of Samoa as a host. It is an exciting time in the Pacific and it's going to be exciting in Samoa!

'Ofaatu!

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

We kindly acknowledge the following donors and partners:



Pacific Pilot Project on Climate Resilience and the Regional Technical Support Mechanism moves ahead in the Pacific

The Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has established the Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM) and its associated Rapid Response Fund (RRF). These two mechanisms were formulated in direct response to calls from the Smaller Island States Leaders and the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable, to supplement national efforts through technical assistance in the area of climate change and related disaster risk reduction.

The RTSM and RRF is a collaborative undertaking of all CROP agencies and their associated development partners and donors and is a key output under the Pacific Region: Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR). Hosted within the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme based in Samoa, both the RTSM and the RRF are established and operated under the guidance of the Working Arm of the CROP Executive Sub-Committee on Climate Change and Disaster Resilient Development (WARD).

The RTSM, is a pre-qualified roster of experts on climate change, is accessible to all Pacific island member countries as well as CROP agencies, multilateral development banks, development partners and is available online through the [Pacific Climate Change Portal](#). The rapid response fund is the resourcing mechanism for the regional technical support mechanism where approximately USD\$1,182million from the Climate Investment Fund is made available- this fund is administered through the Asia Development Bank.

The RRF has been established with a vision of it evolving into a climate change financing facility for the Pacific region. While the Asia Development Bank funding is only available to finance technical assistance to 14 ADB Developing Member Countries, coverage of the RRF will expand as new donors and partners come onboard. The RRF is open to all donors and development partners who may wish to join as a partner.

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Pacific to have very first Joint Regional Climate and Disaster Resilience Plan



Above: Mosese Sikivou (Manager Community Risk programme, SPC) and Dr Netatua Pelesikoti (Director Climate Change Division, SPREP) at the Joint Meeting of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Pacific Climate Change Roundtable in July 2013.

In early June, key stakeholders and national agencies in the fields of weather, climate services, climate change and disaster risk management met in Suva, Fiji to have their final input to the newly drafted Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP).

This key document, four years in the making, will strengthen work happening at a regional level by bringing together strategies aimed at climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction under one guiding regional framework.

[Read more...](#)

Fourth Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum 2014, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum 2014

1-3 October 2014 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



The 4th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum 2014 is now open for registration. The Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) is organising its flagship Forum on 1-3 October 2014 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, under the theme *New Partnerships for Resilient Development: Government, Business and Society*.

Over 500 climate change adaptation practitioners will join public and private sector officials and top experts at this year's Forum. The Forum aims to help participants from all levels of government and in business and society become more effective in addressing development challenges in a changing climate. This year's Forum will focus on adaptation actors and how they collaborate to form partnerships and networks for resilient development.

With over 150 speakers and 30 sessions planned, the Forum is among the biggest climate change adaptation events in the region. Three Forums have successfully been co-organised by APAN since 2010.

Be a session organiser

In the spirit of this year's theme, we welcome new partners to the Forum, particularly Session Organisers who could moderate, lead, and financially support one to five participants, covering airfare, accommodation and per diem for the three-day event. Session Organisers are also encouraged to suggest speakers and refine topics based on their areas of expertise.

To register and for more information on themes and the agenda, visit the Adaptation Forum 2014 website: <http://www.asiapacificadapt.net/adaptationforum2014/>

For other inquiries, including how to become a Session Organiser, email the Adaptation Forum 2014

Secretariat: forum@asiapacificadapt.net

Registration is open until Friday, 1 August 2014. We look forward to your active participation!

Forum Themes

- Mainstreaming and Transformative Change
- Development and the Food-Water-Energy Nexus
- Disaster Risk Reduction and human security
- Forestry, Biodiversity and Ecosystems Change
- Cities with an emphasis on coastal Development and Sea-Level Rise

Source: *The adaptation forum 2014 secretariat*

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PACC lays knowledge foundations for climate change adaptation in the Pacific



Knowledge is power! And with a goal to empower Pacific island nations and communities to face climate change, the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) programme is stepping up activities to capture and share the vital knowledge it has generated over the last 5 years. Two new publication series have recently been launched, complementing the [PACC webpages](#), while Tonga held the first 'PACC lessons learned' workshop at the end of May.

"PACC was the first major adaptation initiative in the Pacific region, and one of its main goals has been to lay the knowledge foundations for future adaptation efforts," explains PACC Project Officer, Peni Leavai. "Five years in, we have learned a great deal about building resilience, especially in our focus areas of food security, water resources management and coastal infrastructure. We're now rising to the challenge of capturing and sharing this knowledge so that future projects can build on it."

Fourteen Pacific island countries and territories are participating in the PACC programme. Each developed a demonstration project in its chosen priority area, to pilot new ways of working for development projects. "We have introduced the concept of mainstreaming climate into development across the region," says Peni. "Projects were not thinking ahead in terms of climate, leaving them vulnerable to changes that were not anticipated. We are promoting that forward thinking – 'climate proofing' of development."

The technical aspects of PACC's work are being captured in the [PACC Technical Report series](#). The first five in the series cover cost-benefit analysis, gender, and vulnerability and adaptation assessment, with more to be added soon. "These publications provide specific details of the projects' experiences using the various tools," explains Anne Moorhead, knowledge management consultant for the PACC programme. "This type of information will be particularly useful to other climate change practitioners in the region, especially those who are developing new projects."

"The [PACC Experiences series](#), on the other hand, converts the more technical information into easier to understand language, and distils out the key messages. So this series will appeal to policy makers, for example, and others who want to quickly grasp the issues and the new ideas PACC is promoting."

Learning and assimilating lessons is key to building knowledge, and as the projects draw to a close the PACC country teams are being encouraged and assisted to hold lessons learned workshops to ensure that this learning occurs. The first brought together 30 stakeholders of the Tonga PACC project, including members of the Hihifo communities where the project is being implemented, the project team, and representatives of the various government, non-government and private agencies that are also involved in the project. The workshop provided a space for open and honest discussion and feedback on the project. A report on the lessons learned in Tonga will also be published for wider learning.



PACC is due to end in December 2014, but it will leave behind a legacy of knowledge that will be available through the [PACC webpages](#), [SPREP databases](#), and the regional [Pacific Climate Change Portal](#).



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The PACC programme is funded by the Global Environment Facility and the Australian Government with support from the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Climate Change Capacity Development (C3D+). The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is the implementing agency, with technical and implementing support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Pacific featured at International Capacity Development Forum

At the 3rd Durban Forum on Capacity Building, representatives of the Cook Islands and SPREP made presentations on how capacity building is integrated into project activities at the national level. Lavinia Tama from Cook Islands presented on how the Finland Pacific Project (FINPAC) was using interactive community-based communications training for the building of capacity on climate change and extreme weather events.

She highlighted how the project had empowered the national weather service to discuss climate change and weather events relevant to the livelihoods of community members on Aitutaki. The project also catalysed moves in the community to improve their own climate change resilience and improve disaster risk planning using more targeted information from the national weather service.

Her presentation was preceded by an overview presentation from SPREP on the FINPAC project. Climate Change Adviser, Espen Ronneberg, presented on how the project embraces many of the imperatives under negotiation at the UNFCCC; not just capacity building.



By partnering with other national efforts and projects FINPAC was also able to link adaptation, mitigation and enhanced scientific capacity in the region. In addition specific capacity development on quality management for the met services also had ancillary benefits in their general work. The work that each Pacific island country will undertake under FINPAC will also assist them in the integration of climate change adaptation



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Low Carbon Development planned for the Pacific region

Low Carbon Development in the Pacific region is one of three goals of the Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP), a strategy still undergoing regional consultation before final endorsement.

In June, the Strategy in its current draft was at the centre of a day of discussions during the 6th Session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management in Suva, allowing for further input.

While the Pacific contributes to less than 0.01% of the global total of carbon dioxide emissions, efforts are being made to reduce emissions through renewable energy actions. This has a range of benefits that are both financial and environmental.

[Read more...](#)



To access a copy of the SRDP in its current draft please contact:

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Tropical Cyclone Committee for the South Pacific and South-East Indian Ocean Meeting in Port Vila, Vanuatu



Above: Participants at the meeting of the Tropical cyclone committee for the South Pacific and the South East Indian Ocean, Port Vila, Vanuatu. Photo: Henry Taiki (WMO). Inset: Images taken after Cyclone Ian.

The Tropical Cyclone Committee for the South Pacific and South-East Indian Oceans met in Port Vila, Vanuatu, from 26 to 30 May 2014. The meeting was officially opened by the Honourable Mr James Bule, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Meteorology, Geo-hazard, Energy, and Disaster Management. In his statement, the Minister highlighted that the Government of Vanuatu has placed high importance on the roles played by the National Meteorological Services, demonstrated by immense commitment to the development of the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazard Department during the past 10 years.

These developments include a new Head Office building, the amalgamation of meteorology and geo-hazard, revision of the organisation structure to increase the number of staff to 89, creation of a multi-hazard early warning centre, development of a legal framework to establish a coordinated sectoral response to disasters and digitisation of 50 years of climate historical data.

The meeting reviewed progress and challenges, and discussed ways in which the National Meteorological Services of the countries in the Pacific and South-East Indian Oceans can coordinate and improve the timely provision of quality, impact-based tropical cyclone information, forecasts, and warnings to protect life and property. It also discussed ways how the National Meteorological Services could coordinate the provision of information and warnings of storm surges, heavy rainfall and floods, which are the most devastating cause of damage and loss of life and property.

[The Tropical Cyclone Operating Plan for the South Pacific and South-East Indian Oceans](#) (2012 edition) describes the existing internationally coordinated systems and arrangements with a view to making the best use of the existing resources and facilities towards providing the most effective tropical cyclone warning system for the South Pacific and South-East Indian Oceans. It describes the warning systems and defines the international tropical cyclone forecasting and warning responsibilities of all relevant countries. It also sets out agreed arrangements for units and terminology; exchange of information, advisories and warnings; and operational procedures. The Tropical Cyclone Committee for the South Pacific and South-East Indian Oceans and the development, review and update of the Tropical Cyclone Operating Plan for the South Pacific and South-East Indian Oceans are an integral part of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Tropical Cyclone Programme.

The WMO Tropical Cyclone Programme assists countries to establish national and regional institutional coordinated systems to ensure that the loss of life and damage caused by tropical cyclones are reduced to a minimum. It includes facilitating WMO's role in the follow-on activities of the International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The WMO tropical Cyclone Programme also looks at developing the capacity of Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries; developing tools, techniques and methodologies for the National Meteorological Services; facilitating application of research; promoting partnership and cooperation; enhancing coordination of regional services; and taking a multi-hazard approach early warning systems for weather and climate hazards, flood, tsunami and storm surges.

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Pacific-American Climate Fund

The Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM) is a five-year USAID project that provides grants to civil society organisations (CSOs) throughout the Pacific Rim in support of climate change adaptation measures.

Applications are now open!

For more information:

<http://www.pgrd.org/projects/pacam/>



Photo: Carlo Iacovino

Events in July 2014

Activity	Date	Location
SIDS Officials Meeting	1 July	Suva, Fiji
16 th Session of the Commission of Climatology	3 – 8 July	Heidelberg, Germany
WMO Technical Conference of Meteorological and environmental Instruments and Methods of Observation	6 – 9 July	Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation
Technical Conference on Aviation Meteorology – Building Blocks for the Future	7 – 8 July	Montreal, Quebec, Canada
16 th Session of the Commission for Instruments and Methods of Observations	10 – 16 July	Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation
Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific Islands	1 – 4 July	Busan, Korea
In country Assistance: Training for Financial Institution	7 – 11 July	Tonga
SPREP Review Team Meetings	7 – 11 July	SPREP
15 th Session of the Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology	15 – 16 July	Montreal, Quebec, Canada
International Renewable Energy and CC Conference	14 – 16 July	Suva, Fiji
Engineers without Borders NZ Conference	17 - 19 July	Christchurch, NZ
Pacific Islands Climate Services Dialogue on Preserving Fresh-water Resources and Minimizing Impact on Drought	17 – 18 July	American Samoa
FINPAC Media Training for Niue MET Service	18 – 25 July	Niue
PACC MPR & Project Board Meetings	28 July – 1 August	Nadi, Fiji
In country assistance: Community Climate & Disaster Resilient Planning Workshop	28 July – 7 August	Tuvalu
2014 Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meetings	29 July – 1 August	Koror, Palau
PIGGAREP MPR & Project Board Meetings	30 July – 1 August	Nadi, Fiji
NOAA Training Meeting in Samoa hosted by CC Division	30 – 31 July	SPREP