

Climate Change Matters

Photo: © Charles Netzler

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Warm Pacific Greetings,

Director's Note

Over the past year, we have seen how technology has continuously allowed us to bridge the gap between the vast oceans that divide us during these uncertain times. Numerous climate change trainings, workshops, launches, conferences, and webinars were made possible through hybrid approaches, where participants joined both in-person and online. This approach has allowed us to not only stay connected and engaged, but to maximise our reach on important issues.

Some key achievements in the past months include the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) celebrating ten years of service to the Pacific region. The PMC was established at the Fourteenth Regional Meteorological Services Directors Meeting to strengthen the capacity of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), thus contributing to the development aspirations of the people of the Pacific.

In recognition of this legacy, we also look towards the future as new projects launch such as the European Union investment of EUR 9 million for the Climate Information Services in the Pacific (ClimSA) project. The main objective of the ClimSA project is to support the climate information services value chain with technical, financial, and capacity building. This will ultimately result in improved access and use of climate information.

We continue to work together to provide useful and meaningful services and tools to add to our combined efforts to build our resilience to climate change in the Pacific.

Please enjoy this issue of our Climate Change Matters Newsletter.

Kia Monuina,

Tagaloa

Director of Climate Change Resilience
The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)



Tagaloa Cooper





PACIFIC COLLECTIVELY ASKS THE WORLD TO FLEX FOR 1PT5 TO HELP KEEP GLOBAL WARMING BELOW 15 DEGREES

The Pacific Islands needs an urgent commitment for net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and a call for action was launched by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) ahead of the UN Climate Conference COP26 in Glasgow.

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PROJECT TO BUILD RESILIENCE OF MOATAA MANGROVES BEGINS

A collaboration involving government departments, civil societies, private sector, and academia, to build the resilience of the Moata'a Mangroves and benefit the ecosystem and socio-economic wellbeing of villagers, is underway.

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NINE TO TWELVE TROPICAL CYCLONES PREDICTED FOR 2021 2022 CYCLONE SEASON

The National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) has predicted that between nine to twelve tropical cyclones could impact the Pacific region this cyclone season. Three or more could develop into severe tropical cyclones.

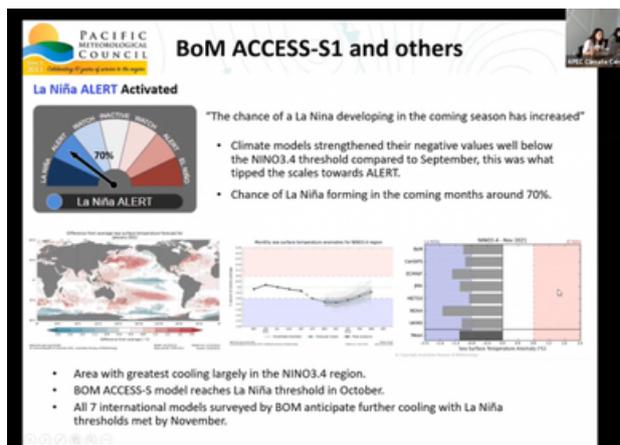
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PACIFIC LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE DOUBLE DIP LA NIÑA EPISODE

The Pacific is likely to experience a rare occurrence of what is called a double dip La Niña in the coming months, Climate models and predictions tools used by Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) show.

The prediction, based on anomalies identified by the climate models and tools, was revealed in a statement on the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), presented during the Ninth Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF-9).

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FORUM PREPARES PARTICIPANTS TO INFORM PACIFIC OF LOOMING EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

As the south-west Pacific heads into its tropical cyclone season, and the tropical north Pacific prepare for their dry season, an urgent call to produce objective, user-relevant climate outlook guidance in real time to reduce climate-related risks, has been made.

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PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE BUILDS CAPACITY ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND FOOD PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

Eleven Pacific countries and territories and Timor-Leste have benefitted from the continuation of a training programme designed to build capacity and strengthen understanding of climate change risk and vulnerability, primary adaptation and mitigation options for food production systems.

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PACIFIC POLITICAL CLIMATE CHAMPIONS AMPLIFY CALL FOR URGENT ACTION

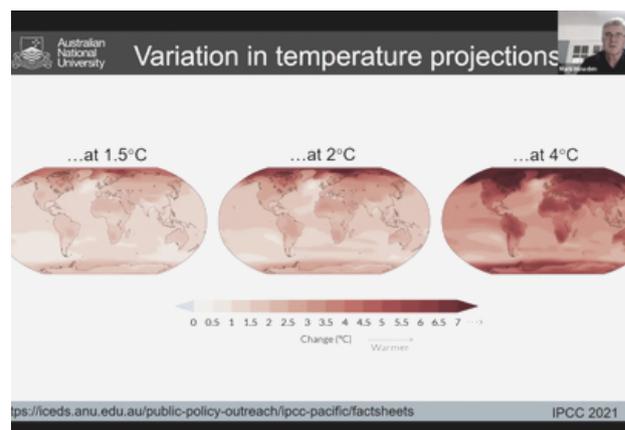
The Pacific's collective voice, calling on world leaders to urgently implement the Paris Agreement, will have new-found mana at the UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow, with the announcement of five Political Climate Change Champion.

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PACIFIC WEBINAR DISCUSSES KEY FINDINGS OF THE IPCC'S SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT

The Pacific Climate Change Centre in collaboration with the Australian National University hosted a Pacific webinar to provide the most up to date synthesis of relevant climate change information to diverse Pacific Island audiences. The webinar was held on 25 August 2021 with more than 300 participants that attended the event.

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VANUATU COMMUNITY LEADERS AND PROVINCIAL STAKEHOLDERS APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY CLIMATE CENTERS

More than 20,000 community members in Torba and Sanma Provinces in Vanuatu will directly benefit from the establishment of community climate centers under the Vanuatu Klaemet Blong Redy, Adapt mo Protekt (Van-KIRAP) project. Community leaders in Torba and Sanma Provinces in Vanuatu have given the final clearance for Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department (VMGD) and Van-KIRAP to establish climate information hubs.



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THE EUROPEAN UNION INVESTS EUR 9 MILLION IN CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICES IN THE PACIFIC

A five-year EUR 9 million project aimed at strengthening the production, availability, delivery and application of science-based information, supporting decision-makers was today launched at the Pacific Climate Change Centre in Apia, Samoa. This project will provide innovative and collaborative solutions to manage climate-related risks and to support sustainable development in the Pacific.

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PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL CELEBRATES TEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PACIFIC REGION.

The Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC), the specialised subsidiary body of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) established to facilitate and coordinate the scientific and technical programmes and activities of regional meteorological services, is this year celebrating ten years of service to the Pacific region.



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PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE OFFERS CAPACITY BUILDING COURSE ON ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

A training programme to enhance climate resilience capacity through Ecosystem-based Adaptation and Mitigation (EbA/EbM) in the Pacific region was delivered by the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) through its e-learning platform. The training was attended by 59 participants from 11 Pacific island countries.

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DIALOGUE STRENGTHENS REGIONAL COORDINATION FOR OCEAN ACIDIFICATION MONITORING

Pacific island countries and territories were given the opportunity to share lessons learned from Ocean Acidification (OA) monitoring and to learn from one another as well as other OA experts during a Pacific Islands Ocean Acidification Monitoring Dialogue held in May this year.

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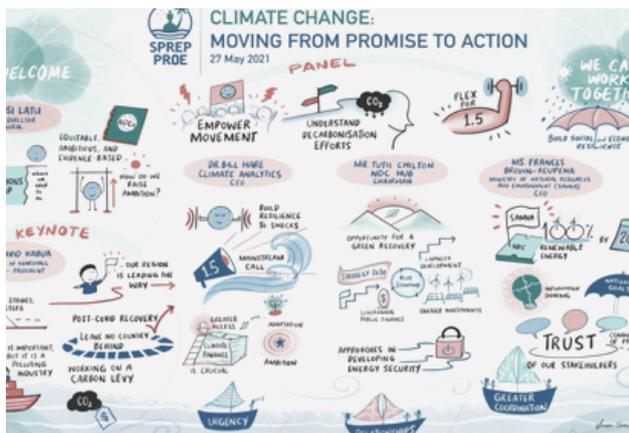


DECARBONISATION IN THE PACIFIC TAKES CENTRE STAGE DURING MOVE FROM PROMISE TO ACTION WEBINAR

The decarbonisation efforts undertaken by the Pacific in a bid to continue to be leaders of the global climate change fight were highlighted during the “Move from Promise to Action” webinar hosted by the Climate Change Resilience programme of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme this afternoon.

The webinar is the first of a series of webinars hosted by SPREP across 2021.

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PACIFIC HYDROMET COMMUNITY TO CAPITALISE ON EMERGING TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION WITH TWO-DAY VIRTUAL TALANOA

Strengthening partnerships between the private sector and Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and identifying emerging technology and innovation in weather, water, ocean, climate, and disaster risk management and reduction were some of the objectives of the two-day HydroMet Pacific Talanoa and Exhibition.

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ACCESS-S TRAINING TO ENHANCE WEATHER AND CLIMATE FORECASTING

Extreme seasonal and year-to-year variation in climate presents a major risk to global society, the economy and the environment. These risks are particularly significant for Pacific Island countries and compounded by human caused climate change.

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SPREP CONGRATULATES THE APEC CLIMATE CENTER, NOW A MEMBER OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL CLIMATE CENTRE NETWORK

With a history of around eight years of providing climate information services in the Pacific Island region, the APEC Climate Center (APCC) has officially become a member of the WMO RA-V Pacific Regional Climate Centre Network (Pacific RCC) node on long-range forecasting.

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PACIFIC LEADERS JOIN FORCES AHEAD OF LANDMARK CLIMATE SUMMIT

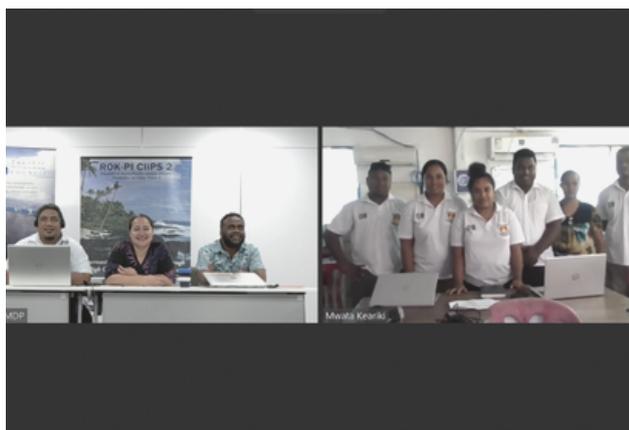
Pacific leaders met COP26 President Alok Sharma on 8 July to set out their priorities for the major climate change summit in November. Underscoring what is at stake for the Pacific, leaders and Ministers from 11 countries across the region joined a virtual dialogue hosted by the UK to outline their commitment to ramping up climate action and urge for more decisive action from the largest greenhouse gas emitters.

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SPREP REACCREDITED TO WORLD'S LARGEST CLIMATE FUND

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme has been successfully recredited to the Green Climate Fund as a Regional Implementing Entity. Pacific island Members can apply for GCF funding for climate change adaptation and mitigation projects through SPREP.

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KIRIBATI MET SERVICE EMPOWERED TO PROTECT RESIDENTS

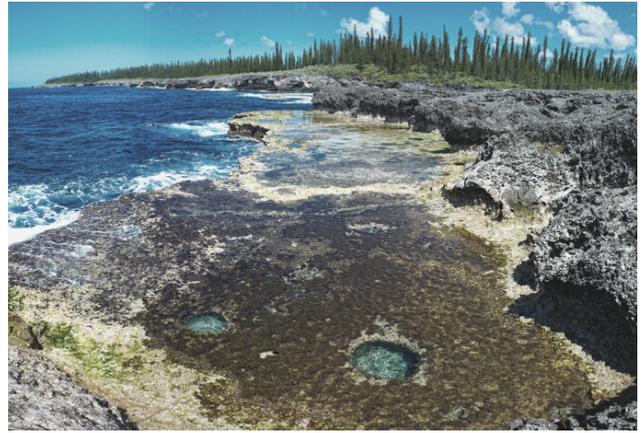
The staff of the Kiribati Meteorological Service are in a better position to warn residents of the remote island of likely natural hazards thanks to the opportunity to improve their understanding of various climate and weather prediction tools.

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PACIFIC ISLANDS CONTINUE THEIR FIGHT FOR A 1.5°C WORLD

Building a strong Pacific islands negotiations block at the world's largest climate change conference is gaining momentum leading up to the Twenty-Sixth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26).

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SECURING CLIMATE FINANCING TO BUILD RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE PACIFIC REGION

Emerging opportunities and challenges in accessing climate finance to build resilience to climate change in the Pacific were identified during the 30th SPREP Meeting of Officials. With the establishment of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in 2015, there has been a shift in countries' approaches to accessing financing to meet their Nationally Determined Contributions ambitions towards low-emission, climate-resilient pathways.

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NON-ECONOMIC LOSS AND DAMAGE: INSIGHTS FROM THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Pacific Islanders are already experiencing loss and damage in profound ways that negatively affects their health, ways of being, and connection to land. We investigated the non-economic dimensions of loss resulting from climate change - and how vulnerable communities are responding to these losses.

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REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE COMMENCES

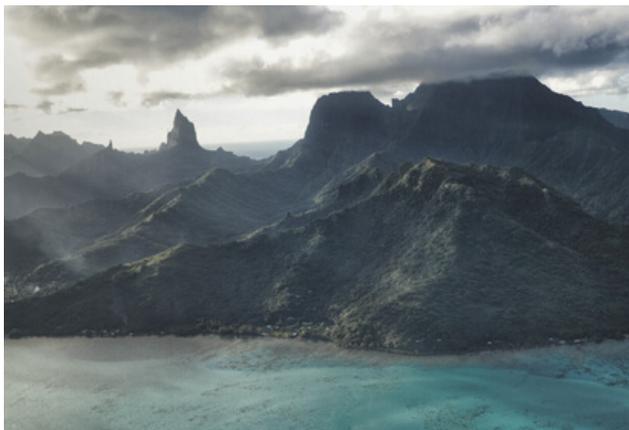
The Regional Dialogue on "Pacific Climate Change Centre - Promise and Offer to Pacific island Countries and Territories amid the pandemic", designed to enhance the key roles and functions of the Centre for a resilient Pacific, officially commenced both virtually and face-to-face for participants in Samoa.

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NEWLY RELEASED IPCC REPORT CONFIRMS GRAVE RISKS IN A WARMING WORLD

Our future got much bleaker with the release of the first report in the sixth series from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on 9 August. Released just days before World Youth Day, the Report does not bode well for our future generations, reinforcing the same key messages from earlier IPCC Annual Reports. Urgent changes must be made to limit global warming to the Paris Agreements 1.5°C temperature limit while there is still time.

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UNDERSTANDING CLIMATE CHANGE, WHAT IT IS, AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT!

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Programme (SPREP)'s fifth quiz of the 2021 quiz series is using a fun learning tool to both inform and understand how much Pacific audiences, and those around the world, know about the greatest threat facing our Pacific region and the world.

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PCCC LAUNCH INNOVATIVE LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION FOR PACIFIC ARTISTS!

The Pacific Climate Change Centre logo competition presented a unique opportunity to bring together Pacific cultures expressed through art and creativity, with the PCCC's science-based approach to supporting Pacific islands in climate change adaptation and mitigation.

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A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures