

# CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS

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Photo: R.Wright/SPREP

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## EDITORIAL

Greetings from the SPREP **Climate Change Matters** team and welcome to the first edition for 2017. **Climate Change Matters** is celebrating its 5<sup>th</sup> year in production of this monthly newsletter. We are committed to another year of working and sharing our collective efforts in responding to climate change and building our communities and people's resiliency.

At time of writing this, the cyclone season in the south has been quiet until recently with the naming of first cyclone for the season; category one Cyclone Bart near Cook Islands and although the season is coming to an end, our National Meteorological Services and National Disaster Offices are still keeping watch and tracking any anomalies developed around our waters.

With Pacific island country obligations under the Paris Agreement, SPREP is committed to building the capacity of PICs to access climate change funds from the Green Climate Fund. We saw the successful stories from Samoa with UNDP and Vanuatu with SPREP. The approval of a major project from the GCF is only the beginning, as countries like Samoa and Vanuatu and their partners will now have to plan for implementation. Similarly for Fiji with ADB and Tuvalu with UNDP. We would like to share your stories and do contact SPREP as we look forward and are keen to work with you to access climate change funds.

The SPREP Blue Team is heavily involved in the preparation with you for the United Nation Ocean Conference in June this year. A healthy ocean means a healthy community, island and country. But we are also aware of the challenges of the oceans linked to our weather and climate systems. Thus prediction models are important for planning and management purposes. We expect a Conference that not only highlights the oceans use and challenges but where resources and partnerships are committed to sustainably manage our oceans and its resources.

Enjoy this edition and we look forward to hearing from you either to share your work or on how to inform you better.

*Climate change matters. Our Pacific islands matter.*



L-R: Mr Ewen McDonald, GCF Co-chair; Mr Kosi Latu, DG SPREP and Mr Zaheer Fakir, GCF Co-chair, after the Accredited Entities Reception at the 15<sup>th</sup> GCF Board meeting in Samoa. Photo: H.Chung/GCF

## Vanuatu and Samoa amongst new Green Climate Fund grants for the Pacific

A USD 23 Million dollar grant for a Climate Information Services for Resilient Development project has been approved for Vanuatu by the Green Climate Fund. This was one of three projects approved for the Pacific islands region in December last year.

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National Stakeholders and sector participants for the First Vanuatu GCF Readiness Consultations. Photo: S.Seuseu/SPREP

## RTSM assists Vanuatu draw down on Green Climate Fund financing

The Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM) is proud to have played a pivotal role in the recently approved, GCF USD 23 Million grant for the **Climate Information Services for Resilient Development** project.

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Tonga Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Ministry of Environment, Energy, Climate Change, Disaster Management, Meteorology, Information and Communication, Honorable Siasoi Sovaleni deep into discussions with the team during the consultation. Photo: UNDP

## Joint Mission Assists Tonga with GCF Proposal

In late January, a joint SPREP and United Nations Development Programme mission spent a week in Tonga assisting the Government with the development of a draft proposal for the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The project will encompass adaptation options for Vava'u, Ha'apai and Tongatapu, focusing on coastal resilience options. The project is based on evidence of vulnerabilities and climate change impacts and considers an integrated approach to reduce and manage the impacts of climate change, the needs of the communities, and ecosystems functions and services.

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Dr. Tommy Moore, SPREP's PI-GOOS Officer, leading a discussion with the communities of Nanikaai on the impacts of climate change on oceans. Photo: T.Teernari, Kiribati Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development

## Getting active about ocean acidification in Kiribati

The people of Kiribati are working to take action against ocean acidification. Last month the New Zealand Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification project held its community inception and capacity building workshop with in its pilot community of Nanikaai on South Tarawa. Members of all four communities that live in the village, civil society organisations, and representatives from Fisheries, Environment, and the Office of the President, as well as SPREP were all in attendance.

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Ms Lui presenting her poster to a climate research student. Photo: R.Plotz

## Learning and sharing through experience

The Pacific Climate Traditional Knowledge (COSPPac) and the lessons learned so far was well presented at the joint Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (AMOS) and Meteorological Society of New Zealand (MSNZ) conference at the Australian National University in Canberra.

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Semi Koroilavesau, Fiji's Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, delivering his remarks during the opening of the preparatory meeting. Photo: T.Moore/SPREP

## The UN Oceans Conference Preparatory Meeting

The Small Islands Developing States championed the cause of the oceans in the new Sustainable Development Goals, led by the Pacific, and successfully fought for Goal 14: Life Under Water to be included. To start action on Goal 14 the UN is organising an oceans conference at the UN Headquarters.

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Some of the participants at the RTSM of PPCR project workshop. Photo: N.Woonton/SPREP

## PPCR regional meeting in Suva

A two-day regional meeting for the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR) programme, funded by the Climate Investment Fund through the World Bank (WB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), was held. The PPCR is executed at the national level in Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tonga, with a regional track being executed by SPREP, Pacific Community (SPC) and Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS). Representatives were also present from countries that do not have national projects.

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Visit the upgraded portal at [www.pacificclimatechange.net](http://www.pacificclimatechange.net)

## Pacific Climate Change Portal adopts new approach as user interviews kick off in Samoa

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme's (SPREP) Climate Information Knowledge Specialist, Philip Marsden has begun a series of qualitative interviews with climate change practitioners from within relevant governmental, non-governmental, academic and private sector organisations in Samoa. The interviews are part of a greater initiative of the Pacific Climate Change Portal (PCCP: [www.pacificclimatechange.net](http://www.pacificclimatechange.net)) to adopt a **user centric approach** in its efforts to improve climate change information and knowledge management services in the Pacific.

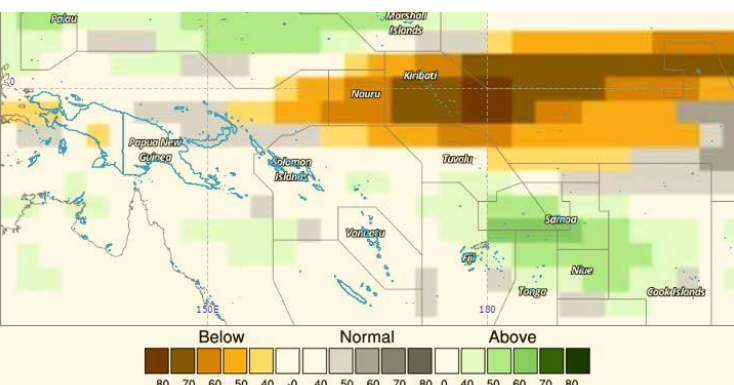
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## Pacific Islands Meteorological Services in Action: a compendium of climate services case studies

The "Pacific Islands Meteorological Services in Action" Compendium which was compiled by SPREP-FINPAC Project in partnership with World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Climate and Oceans Support Programme for the Pacific (COSPPac) and Environment and Climate Change Canada is a result of a first "writeshop" for climate services in the Pacific.

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## Summary Statement for Climate Prediction

The El Niño Southern Oscillation (or ENSO) conditions have returned to neutral (condition where it is not La Niña nor El Niño; but in between) during January 2017, and that ENSO-neutral is the most likely condition through May 2017. The latest set of model ENSO predictions suggest that the sea-surface temperatures (SST) is most likely to be in the ENSO-neutral range from February-Apr season forward through most of the first half of 2017, but with increased uncertainty from around May onward, when El Niño development becomes a possibility.

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## SAVE THE DATE

FOURTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL AND SECOND PACIFIC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON METEOROLOGY

THEME: "SUSTAINABLE WEATHER, CLIMATE, OCEANS AND HYDROLOGICAL SERVICES FOR A RESILIENT PACIFIC"

**14 - 18 August 2017**

VENUE: PACIFIC ISLANDS FISHERIES FORUM AGENCY CONFERENCE CENTRE, HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

### Save the date

The **Fourth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council** and the **Second Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology** will be held on the 14–18 August 2017.

## 2017 CLIMATE CHANGE DIVISION CALENDAR: MARCH

PROJECTS/EVENTS	DETAILS	DATE	WHERE
Samoa Climate Traditional Knowledge Monitoring Training	Conduct Samoa CTKO Monitoring training for Savaii	2–3 March	Savaii
Visit by Norwegian State Secretary for Foreign Affairs	Norwegian delegation wishes to discuss high level issues on oceans and climate change with CCD and Blue Team	8 March	SPREP
SPREP All Staff Advance		9–10 March	St Therese, Leauva'a – Samoa
ACP Sub-committee on sustainable development on outcomes from COP 22 and a roadmap for COP 23	Attend and present on Pacific views of the COP 22 outcomes and provide inputs to ACP cooperation for COP 23	14–15 March	Brussels
Lord Howe Settlement Project and PMC-4 preparations	Followup on the Lord Howe Settlement Project as well as followup on the PMC-4 preparations	20–24 March	Honiara, Solomon Is
COSPPac Traditional Knowledge Project	Follow-up training for SIMS and carry out consultations on Survey and Monitoring Forms	20–24 March	Honiara, Solomon Is
Tuvalu PIGGAREP Commissioning	Attend as the SPREP representative for the Tuvalu PIGGAREP Pilot Site Commissioning	22 March	Funafuti, Tuvalu
Palau PIGGAREP Commissioning	Attend as the SPREP representative for the Palau PIGGAREP Pilot Site Commissioning	22 March	Kayangel, Palau
Pacific regional dialogue on financial management of climate risks	Workshop requested by Tuvalu PM. Organise, facilitate and present on the agenda which will look at climate change finance issues relating to risk, insurance and ultimately loss and damage	27–29 March	Apia
Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification Tokelau Inception workshop	Inception meeting to progress the PPOA project in Tokelau	27–29 March	SPREP



To find out more about SPREP's Climate Change Division (CCD) please visit: [www.sprep.org/Climate-Change/climate-change-about-us](http://www.sprep.org/Climate-Change/climate-change-about-us)



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Our vision: *A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.*

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