

CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS

ISSUE 62 | JANUARY–JULY 2018

Photo: Pauline Marsden

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Fakalofa lahi atu, and renewed greetings to all our valued CCM readers.

Your CCM team has been revisiting and redefining the CCM, hence the late release of CCM for 2018.

This issue highlights a series of stories from the Pacific on climate change. Featuring the multimillion dollar project for Vanuatu, readiness support for FSM and Niue and of course ongoing capacity development around the region including Fiji to name a few.

Included also in this edition is the historical ground breaking for the development of the Pacific Climate Change Center (PCCC) made possible by the generous support of the government of Japan and Samoa. As a shared regional resource, the PCCC will support Pacific island countries on climate change information, research and innovation. Leading the way for research, SPREP, CISRO, Pacific members and their technical partners has drafted a first ever consultative Pacific Research Strategy for Climate Change Science for the PCCC in April. This is an exciting opportunity as the region prepares for the next generation of climate change projection and IPCC AR6 Report.

More recently, the Green Climate Fund second Pacific Structured Dialogue was held in Federated States of Micronesia whereby 150 participants from 14 Pacific island countries attended including ministers, national designated authorities, accredited entities (including SPREP), delivery partners, civil societies, private and development partners.

A lot is happening in the region, the CCM will keep you updated on relevant developments and opportunities. I also invite you to send in your stories that you would like shared with the rest of the Pacific family in the climate change space.

Soifua,
Tagalooa

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



JULY

Pacific Islands contribute to Special Climate Science Report

Point five of a degree in temperature may seem small and insignificant, yet it's the huge difference in ensuring the impact of climate change remain at a "safe" level. The "1.5 to stay alive" call by Small Island Developing States on the international climate change stage has resulted in a global victory.

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Photo: D.McFadzien

GCF FSM Structural Dialogue

The second Structured Dialogue with the Pacific, hosted by the Federated States of Micronesia, ended today with strengthened partnerships between GCF and key stakeholders in the region.

The four day event brought together more than 150 participants, including Ministers, representatives of National Designated Authorities, Accredited Entities, delivery partners, civil society organisations, the private sector and development partners, to take stock of progress and galvanise new ambition for climate action.

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Photo: GCF

JUNE

Climate traditional knowledge experts from around the Pacific come together to share experience in Apia

Climate experts and elders from eleven Pacific island countries gathered in Apia, Samoa earlier this month from 12 to 14 June, to share their knowledge and expertise in the collection, monitoring, storage and communicating traditional knowledge on weather and climate.

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Participants at the TK workshop. Photo: SPREP

Bridging the gap between Pacific Met Services and media

Explaining technical climate and weather information while maintaining scientific accuracy is difficult. Yet it is a crucial part of Met Services work that is needed to prepare the public of an extreme event and allow people to make informed decisions.

Helping to overcome this challenge for the Met Services of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu is a specialized training on using both traditional, and social media. The training is jointly delivered by Pacific Science Solutions (PSS), Bureau of Meteorology, Pacific Community (SPC), SPREP, and media experts Dr. Jan Sinclair and Mrs Samantha Amjadali.

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Lynette Bettio of Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) Australia explaining seasonal outlook. Photo: Fiji Met

JUNE

Pacific marine climate change – partnership with regional and UK experts reveals full regional impacts

The first ever **Pacific Marine Climate Change Report Card** has been launched today as part of World Oceans Day, at events in Fiji and Samoa. The Report Card is a product of a year-long project to analyse and co-ordinate the work of 60 Pacific climate change experts, with marine scientists from the United Kingdom.

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Photo: D.McFadzien

MAY

Regional training on analysis of Himawari data with SATAID begins at Fiji Meteorological Service

The Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS) in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has undertaken a Regional Training on “Analysis of Himawari Data with SATAID” scheduled for 21 to 26 May 2018 at the FMS headquarters in Namaka, Nadi.

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MAY

Advancing Climate Resilience in the Pacific

The impact of climate change reaches all aspects of human life in the Pacific. Policymakers must select the priority adaptation actions from many options. UNDP and UN Environment are empowering effective climate change decision-making in the Pacific, to enhance resilience.

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Water testing in Abaiang, Kiribati. Photo: SPREP

Construction of the Pacific Climate Change Centre begins!

The Pacific island region is only 13 months away from having its' very own Pacific Climate Change Centre hosted at SPREP.

The ground breaking ceremony signified the start of construction of the PCCC funded by the Government of Japan through grant aid to the Government of Samoa. The PCCC will be the regional centre of excellence for climate change information, research and innovation.

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L-R Hon Prime Minister of Samoa, Director General of SPREP, Ambassador of Japan to Samoa, Project Manager Konoike Construction. Photo: SPREP

MAY

Australia Renews Commitment to Major Pacific Climate and Oceans Monitoring and Prediction Programme

At the Planning and Steering Committee meetings for the Climate and Ocean Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac) held this week in Tonga, the Australian Government confirmed that they will continue the excellent work of the programme into a second four year phase beginning 1 July 2018.

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Participants of the COSPPac planning and steering committee meeting in Nuku'alofa, Tonga. Photo: SPREP

APRIL

Stakeholders meet to develop Regional Strategy for Pacific Island Climate Change Science and Services

The development of a regional strategy for Pacific Island Climate Change Science and Services is the main objective of a regional planning workshop being held this week in Apia, convened by SPREP Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

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Participants of the regional research strategy development workshop at Taumeasina Island Resort, Samoa. Photo: SPREP

APRIL

Samoa Meteorology strengthen collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries through Case Study

Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment through the Samoa Meteorology Division –Climate section is branching out its services to support Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) agriculture and fisheries sectors, to use climate change information to help plan for the future by undertaking a case study in Upolu and Savaii. Work on the case study began at a two-day planning workshop held at the Samoa Meteorology Division.

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Participants from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries during the workshop. Photo: SPREP

MARCH

Federated States of Micronesia launch their first Adaptation Fund Project “Enhancing Climate Change Resilience of Vulnerable Island Communities in FSM”

The Vice-President Yosiwo P. George of the Federated States of Micronesia launched their first ever Adaptation Fund Project in the FSM National Government Capitol, Palikir. The Inception Workshop marks the commencement of the project “Enhancing climate change resilience of vulnerable island communities in FSM”.

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Participants of the inception workshop to mark the commencement of the “Enhancing climate change resilience of vulnerable island communities in FSM” project in Pohnpei. Photo: C.Ehmes.

FEBRUARY

Vanuatu Development Sectors and Community to benefit from \$20.5m Green Climate Fund project

Key development and community sectors in Vanuatu are set to benefit from the USD 20.5 million Green Climate Fund (GCF) project, launched in Port Villa in February. The project Climate Information Services for Resilient Development will be delivered by the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazards Division (VMGD) of the Ministry of Climate Change in collaboration with the Ministries for infrastructure, tourism, agriculture, fisheries, and water. This project will also work with the community sectors, with the overall goal of strengthening Vanuatu to better prepared and able to cope with climate change.

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Emua Village, Egate Island, Vanuatu. Photo © Stuart Chape

JANUARY

Niue, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands to enhance access to climate finance in 2018

Niue and Republic of Marshall Islands have successfully accessed the Green Climate Fund's (GCFs) Readiness programme, to commence from early 2018. The Readiness funding will be used to support the National Designated Authorities (NDA's) of each country better plan and manage engagement with the GCF in order to access funds to address the climate priorities.

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Photo: PACC Niue, 2014.



Photo: D.McFadzien

SEASONAL CLIMATE UPDATE ISSUED ON 08 AUGUST 2018

- The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains neutral. While the central Pacific Ocean has cooled very slightly in the past fortnight, more than half of international climate models predict warming to recommence in the coming weeks, and El Niño likely to develop in spring. Therefore, the Bureau's ENSO Outlook remains at El Niño WATCH. El Niño WATCH means there is approximately a 50% chance of El Niño forming in 2018; double the normal chance.
- The Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) varied in strength between weak and moderate this past week. This slow-moving pulse of the MJO continues to lie over the tropical central Pacific Ocean. Most international models forecast the MJO to remain slow moving over the central Pacific Ocean, at moderate strength, for the next few days, prior to weakening and becoming indiscernible.
- The ITCZ is enhanced across large part of the north tropical Pacific and is displaced northwards closer to and east of the dateline. This provide rainfall to countries such as Palau, Federated State of Micronesia and Republic of Marshall Islands. In the south Pacific, the SPCZ was enhanced around the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea to the PNG Islands. Countries such as Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and some parts of PNG experience more rainfall.
- All four models (SCOPIC, APCC, UKMO and ECMWF) favour below normal rainfall for Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu while above normal rainfall for Republic of Marshall Islands and Kiribati. There is also a general agreement amongst all four models regarding below normal rainfall in countries along the SPCZ location. Models are less emphatic elsewhere, with a mixture of normal and climatology favoured in different parts within each country.

CLIMATE CHANGE CALENDAR: AUGUST–DECEMBER 2018

DATES	NAME OF EVENT	LOCATION
AUGUST		
31 Aug–8 Sep	UNFCCC additional Negotiations meeting	Bangkok, Thailand
SEPTEMBER		
3–6	Pacific Island Forum Leaders Meeting	Yaren, Nauru
Aug–15	World Vision & Met Planning Meeting for Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands
13–14	Global Climate Action Summit	USA (San Francisco)
16–23	Finalisation of Tuvalu NAP Concept Note	Tuvalu
18–21	Pacific Blue Carbon Workshop	Fiji
23–27	Phenology Conference	Melbourne
OCTOBER		
1–5	Climate Resilience Monitoring and Evaluation in the Pacific Islands	USP, Fiji
10	Van-CISRDP/KIRAP Steering Committee Meeting	Port Vila, Vanuatu
10–12	Pacific Island Climate Outlook Forum	Fiji (Nadi)
8–12	RAV Meeting	Tonga
15–16	Social Media Training for Climate Officers	Fiji (Nadi)
29 Oct–2 Nov	Pacific met engagement with IPCC	Australia
31 Oct–2 Nov	Pacific COP24 preparatory meeting	Fiji (Nadi)

To find out more about SPREP's Climate Change Resilience (CCR) Programme please visit: www.sprep.org/programme/climate-change-resilience

PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE PORTAL
www.pacificclimatechange.net



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