



Photo: P. Marsden

CONTENTS

Editorial	1
AdaptationFund approves USD 9 million project for FSM	2
Sustainable Renewable Energy Efficiency Project in Palau	2
Tuvalu's Commitments in the face of Climate Change Impacts	2
Solomon Island Meteorological Service signs agreement with the Solomon Island Red Cross Society	2
Strengthening resilience to Ocean Acidification in Tokelau	2
Rapidly warming oceans	3
Fiji and Vanuatu featured in 'Thirsty for a future'	3
What is needed to track progress of emissions reductions under the Paris Agreement?	3
Norwegian Delegation visits SPREP	3
"Knowledge is power" - SPREP and UN Environment partnership launch website and factsheets in the lead up to the UN Ocean Conference	3
Climate Outlook	3
Notices	4
Calendar	4



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

EDITORIAL

Climate Change Matters in this edition celebrates the handing over of the Pacific Greenhouse Gas Abatement Programme through Renewable Energy (PIGGAREP) projects in Palau and Tuvalu.

The excellent outcomes from both Palau and Tuvalu need to be replicated in other communities and in remote outer islands. It's at these times that we ask ourselves - "is the pilot approach to building resiliency in the Pacific the best approach? What happens to the many communities and outer islands with similar issues? Do they need the same interventions?"

Not one person or one agency has all the answers but genuine long term partnerships with a keen ear and commitment for up scaling and replication where prioritised at the national level may be a start.

Pacific Island Countries and Territories are facing great challenges in all aspects of development due to our limited capacity, opportunities and political governance coupled with climate change.

Our aspirations and dreams have changed with time. But what could we nurture for our future generations? Our culture and values, our environment, our way of life, our tradition? Or new technology? new opportunities and commitments?

We look for these answers with the upcoming UN Ocean Summit, with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific and with our respective countries policies and commitments.

Climate change matters.

Our Pacific islands matter.



Existing water tanks and wells from outer islands like those pictured from Eauripik, Woleai atoll, Ifalik, and Feraulap atolls are often in poor conditions.

Adaptation Fund approves USD 9 million project for FSM

USD 9 million has been approved for the Federated States of Micronesia to help island communities reduce vulnerability to extreme drought, sea level rise and other climate risks.

[READ MORE ...](#)



The new Kayangel Island Solar_PV water pumping and supply system, has replaced the electric motor driven pumps of the Kayangel well water systems. Photo A. Abraham.

Sustainable Renewable Energy Efficiency Project in Palau

Renewable energy is at the source of helping to ensure the community of over 180 residents on Kayangel Island in Palau has access to water. Kayangel is the northernmost state of Palau located about 53 miles north of Koror, which is country's capital city.

[READ MORE ...](#)



The Hon. Enele Sosene Sopoaga at the official opening ceremony of the newly established EE Demo Fale.

Tuvalu's Commitments in the face of Climate Change Impacts

Tuvalu Electricity Corporation (TEC) General Manager, Mafalu Lotolua, is a man on a mission to show the world that although Tuvalu's emissions are negligible while the rising tides threaten to take their homes, Tuvalu is leading by example. The island nation is playing their part to further reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by promoting energy efficiency technologies through their Energy Efficiency Demonstration Fale project.

[READ MORE ...](#)



The community-based flood early warning system and light warning system powered by solar energy called the Lord Howe Early Warning Concept.

Solomon Islands Meteorological Service signs agreement with the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society

Solomon Island Meteorological Service (SIMS) put pen to paper to confirm a long term partnership with the Solomon Island Red Cross Society (SIRCS). This is a first in the Pacific and a direct outcome of the Finland-Pacific (FINPAC) project where both SIMS and SIRCS worked together to provide early warning support to the Lord Howe Settlement.

[READ MORE ...](#)

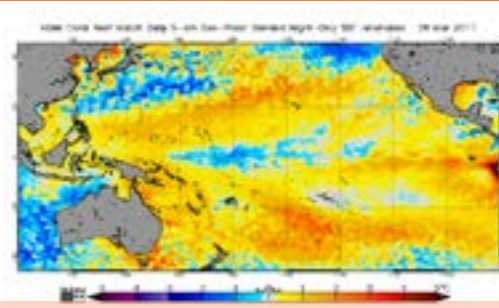


Tokelau participants, officials, and support staff at the Friday lunchtime meeting about ocean acidification, in Taumeasina Resort, Apia. (Credit J A ("Iapi") Jasperse)

Strengthening resilience to Ocean Acidification in Tokelau

Tokelau is one of four Pacific islands embarking on work to strengthen the island atolls resilience to the impacts of ocean acidification, a new and emerging challenge for our region. For Tokelau, this is now underway with a special inception workshop held in Samoa, to plan implementation of the different activities.

[READ MORE ...](#)



Sea surface temperature anomaly (difference between the current sea surface temperature and the long-term average) for the Pacific Ocean. Exceptional warming is occurring in the south central Pacific (red colors), and cooler than average temperatures are occurring in the western equatorial Pacific (blue colors). Image courtesy of NOAA Coral Reef Watch

Rapidly warming oceans

A recent study by Cheng et al has found that the world's ocean is warming 13% faster than we previously thought. This new study corrected observed temperatures for known errors to gain a better agreement between Argo profiling floats and shipboard measurements in conjunction with new spatial interpolation techniques.

[READ MORE ...](#)



Children play 'hide and seek' in a graveyard on Tuvalu in the Pacific Ocean. Massive coastal erosion has caused many coconuts trees to fall down. Photo: UNICEF

Fiji and Vanuatu featured in 'Thirsty for a future'

Fiji and Vanuatu are the two Pacific island countries that are featured as case studies in the new report by UNICEF titled 'Thirsting for a Future: Water and Children in a Changing Climate'. This report was officially launched to mark the World Water Day 2017.

It highlights the challenges faced by the Pacific island countries and the need for advance planning to overcome vulnerability to water scarcity.

[READ MORE ...](#)



Visit the Climate Action Tracker - <http://climateactiontracker.org>

What is needed to track progress of emissions reductions under the Paris Agreement?

Climate Action Tracker (CAT), a partnership between Ecofys Consultancy, Climate Analytics and New Climate Institute, recently launched clear suggestions for making the tracking of progress on emissions reductions clearer and easier to comprehend.

[READ MORE ...](#)

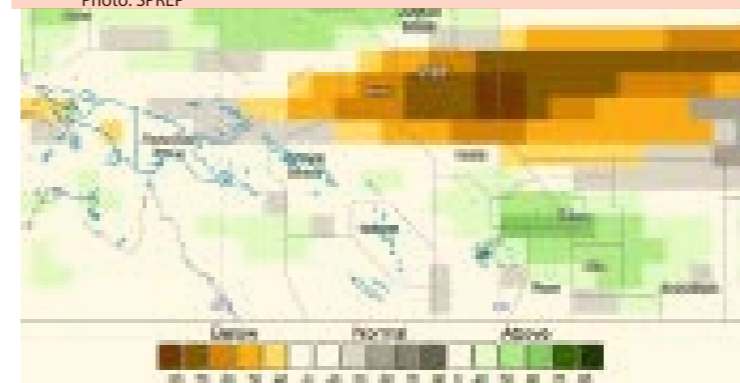


The Norwegian delegation with SPREP staff at the SPREP headquarters, Vailima. Photo: SPREP

Norwegian Delegation visits SPREP

The Deputy Foreign Minister of Norway, Ms Tone Skogen, paid a visit to the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme last week. Ms Skogen, who was accompanied by H.E Ambassador Unni Klovstad and Professor Edvard Hviding of the University of Bergen, met with SPREP Director General, Mr Kosi Latu, and a few of the SPREP staff to discuss climate change and oceans work in the Pacific region.

[READ MORE ...](#)



Summary Statement for Climate Prediction

Current El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains at neutral condition (condition that is not in El Nino nor La Nina but in between).

The Republic of Korea-Pacific Islands Climate Prediction (ROK-PI CliPS) models forecast normal to above normal rainfall forecast for most of the Pacific Islands for March to May 2017 period. However Kiribati and Nauru is forecast to receive lower than normal rainfall for the same period.

[READ MORE ...](#)



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: APRIL

PROJECTS/EVENTS	DETAILS	DATE	WHERE
Pacific iCLIM-2 Planning Meeting	Planning meeting for Phase 2 of the project. Includes 3 pilot countries, new countries and regional partners.	6–7 April	Apia, Samoa
Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Global Coordination Platform Coordination Meeting and Technical Workshop	Discuss opportunities for developing CBIT proposal for the region and what elements could be covered in such a project	18-20 April	Copenhagen, Denmark
Vanuatu in-country traditional knowledge consultations	Conduct consultations with Vanuatu Meteorological and Geo-hazards Department regarding the Traditional Knowledge component of the COSPPac Project	18-21 April	Vanuatu
COSPPac Online Climate Outlook Forum	Trial the Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) teleconference	21 April	SPREP Campus, Samoa
Tonga in-country traditional knowledge consultations	Conduct consultations with Tonga Meteorological Service regarding the Traditional Knowledge component of the COSPPac Project	24-28 April	Tonga



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



PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE PORTAL
www.pacificclimatechange.net



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS
ISSN: 2227-6947

Published by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa · Ph: +685 21929 · sprep@sprep.org

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

www.sprep.org

We kindly acknowledge the following donors and partners:



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

