



Tabwakea, Christmas Island, Kiribati. (Photo by: Fata Sunny Seuseu)

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

CLIMATE CHANGE DIVISION

SPREP, Apia, Samoa

T: +685 21929

E: climatechange@sprep.org

W: www.sprep.org

ISSN: 2227-6947



Director's Note



Dr Netatua Pelesikoti

*Climate Change Division Director
SPREP*

Dear colleagues and friends,

There was much anticipation for the signing and ratification of the Paris Agreement, which was opened on 22 April this year. Congratulations to all the Pacific island countries who led in the signing and ratification. Fiji, Nauru, Palau, Marshall Islands, Samoa and Tuvalu were six of the 15 overall countries that submitted their ratification during the special signing ceremony at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The Paris Agreement, however, will only enter into force after 55 country parties ratify the agreement, and within those 55 countries 55 percent of global emissions are accounted for are reduced. Thus it is crucial for Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and the rest of the world for big emitters to deposit their instruments of ratification.

It is heartening to see the commitments of Pacific island countries and SIDS to this global process, with the knowledge that despite regional and national adaptation and risk reduction on-the-ground programmes these efforts will be wasted and total devastation become reality if collective global greenhouse gas emissions are not deeply cut.

While we knuckle down with adaption and with risk reduction in our development processes as shown below, we desperately call on the rest of the world to ensure the principles and the goals of the Paris Agreement are implemented in a timely fashion and enforced to ensure each and every nation's sustainable development goals are successfully achieved.

'ofa atu,

Neta

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:





Six Pacific islands ratify the Paris Climate Accord

The Pacific islands, amongst the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, have displayed global leadership this weekend when the Paris Agreement opened for signing on 22 April. Fiji, Nauru, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa and Tuvalu were six of the 15 overall countries that submitted their ratification during the special signing ceremony at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

"We congratulate and commend our member countries for their leadership in not only signing but also taking that extra crucial step to ratify the Agreement, helping to ensure it will come into force," said Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

For more information: [Click here](#)



H.E. Dr. Hilda Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands signing the Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement and the Pacific islands

Hailed as a historical milestone, the Paris Agreement adopted at the end of the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP21) in France last year was the topic of a three day High Level gathering of Pacific island countries.

The High Level Support Mechanism Meeting for Pacific Small Island Developing States opened today in Samoa, the outcomes of which will be a well informed and prepared Pacific region to meet their obligations under the Paris Agreement.

For the full article: [Click here](#)



High-level Support Mechanism Ministerial participants.

Multi-billion dollar climate fund approves Vanuatu Readiness proposal.

Vanuatu is the first Pacific island to have a Readiness proposal to support project development, approved from the multi-billion dollar [Green Climate Fund](#). This follows the recent announcement that the [Cook Islands is the first Pacific island country](#) to have received a Readiness grant from the GCF to support institutional strengthening to access climate finance.

"We'd like to congratulate Vanuatu and the Cook Islands for these huge achievements, we recognise the amount of work that has gone in to seeking this Readiness grant of the GCF," said SPREP Director General, Mr Kosi Latu.

For the full article: [Click here](#)



Flooding in Vanuatu.





Republic of Korea-Pacific Islands Climate Prediction Project CLIKP training participants from the Vanuatu Climate Division, VMGD.

New online Climate Prediction tool helps Vanuatu prepare for anticipated extreme climate events

In the past month, the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazards Department (VMGD) staff received a demonstration and short training on the use of a new online Climate Prediction tool known as “Climate Information Toolkit for the Pacific” (or CLIKP).

The in-country training was to enhance the capacity of the VMGD in accessing the dynamical seasonal prediction system based at SPREP to provide tailored climate forecasts for Ni-Vanuatu communities. Through this, Vanuatu will be able to better inform their decision making regarding climate risk reduction and adaptation.

For the full article: [Click here](#)

Project focuses on resilience to climate change in urban environment.

Story by Anita Roberts, as taken from Vanuatu Daily Post

A new project examining ecosystem services and its contribution to community resilience is underway in Port Vila. The Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) is a five-year project funded by the German Government and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

For the full article from Vanuatu Daily Post: [Click here](#)



PEBACC consultant team and local experts.

SPREP and Solomon Islands to strengthen Natural Solutions to Climate Change.

The Solomon Islands component of the [PEBACC project](#) held its inception workshop last month in Honiara. The one day workshop was attended by over 30 participants from government agencies, NGOs, Honiara City Council and representatives from the Choiseul province and Lauru Land Conference of Tribal Community.

For the full article: [Click here](#)



Participants at the SPREP Solomon Island PEBACC Inception workshop at the Mendana Hotel.





Ocean Acidification report for the Pacific islands.

The vulnerability of Pacific islands to Ocean Acidification has been assessed for which the results are now available in the very first report of its kind. The [Pacific Islands Ocean Acidification Vulnerability Assessment](#) provides Pacific island communities insight into the future changes in ocean chemistry due to acidification caused by oceans absorbing the increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

For the full article: [Click here](#)



Dead fish washed up on the shore

Kiribati Meteorological Service trained to work with the Media to reach the masses.

The Line Islands Group in Kiribati is two hours ahead of the capital Tarawa where the Kiribati Meteorological Service (KMS) is based. As such, the timely preparation of weather bulletins, in particular, weather warnings need to factor in this time difference.

There is much pressure placed on the KMS given the challenges they face in trying to deliver timely weather information such as the slow internet access. The KMS must also ensure the information is well understood by communities who are then able to take action based on what they have been told. With radio being the most reliable channel of communication to reach people in the outer islands of Kiribati, the vital role of the media is key.

For the full article: [Click here](#)



Joe Tiira listens on as Assistant Climate Officer of KMS, Mauna Eria explains Kiribati's Climate Outlook.

Building climate and disaster ready communities in the Abaiang islets of Ribono and Nuotaea.

Communication to the two outer islets of Ribono and Nuotaea in Abaiang, Kiribati can be extremely challenging as information, especially when there are weather warnings in effect, tends to be mainly received through radio and word of mouth when people travel in between the islands.

For the full article: [Click here](#)



Traditional taro pits now underwater in Nuotea Islet, Kiribati

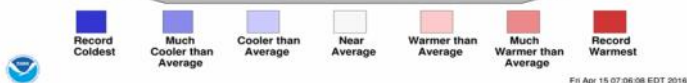
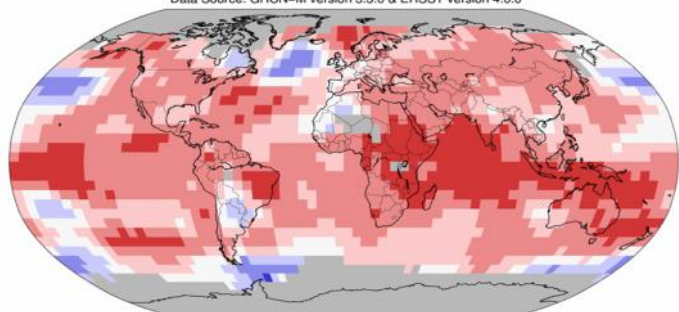




Land & Ocean Temperature Percentiles Mar 2016

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information

Data Source: GHCN-M version 3.3.0 & ERSST version 4.0.0



March 2016 land and ocean temperature anomalies provided by US NOAA.

Global temperature continue to break records.

Global average temperatures continue to break records. While February, 2016 still holds the record for being the hottest month, March 2016 was the hottest March on record, and marks the 11th month in row that the global monthly temperature record has been broken.

Globally, on average, temperatures were 1.22 °C above the 20th century average, according to US NOAA.

For the full article: [Click here](#)



Meeting attendees (back row from left): Henry Taiki (WMO), Philip Malsale (VMGD, Vanuatu), Lameko Simanu (MNRE, Samoa), Salesa Nihmei (SPREP), Jens Kruger (SPC), Sunny Seuseu (SPREP) and (front from left). Samuel Maiha (NWS-PNG) Andrew Tait (RA-V/NIWA) Dr. Netatua Pelesikoti (SPREP) and Janita Pahalad (BOM)

Third meeting of the Pacific Islands Climate Services (PICS) Panel held in Port Vila, Vanuatu

The third meeting of the Pacific Islands Climate Services Panel was held in Port Vila, Vanuatu from 21-23 March 2016. The meeting discussed a range of key issues to progress climate information and services in the region including the discussion and guidance on the options to setup the Regional Climate Center (RCC), the second Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICO-2), progress on the National Climate Outlook Forums (NCOFs) in Papua New Guinea and Kiribati and the development of the Regional Climate Roadmap.

For the full article: [Click here](#)



Mr. Nodel Neneiya, SIS Officer, Nauru Department of Foreign Affairs, mapping out Nauru's current climate change institutional structure in preparation of the Institutional Gap Analysis for the GCF Readiness Support.

RTSM supports Nauru's Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness request and concept.

The Government of Nauru submitted its Readiness Request of USD 300,000 and Institutional Gap Analysis for the Green Climate Fund Readiness Support on 30 March 2016. The technical assistance was provided by the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) through the deployment of its Climate Finance Adviser, Mr Exsley Taloiburi, as part of the CROP agencies collaborative efforts to efficiently serve the priority needs of Pacific island countries in relation to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

For the full article: [Click here](#)





Island Climate Update (ICU 3-month forecast)

El Nino conditions continue to rapidly weaken over March. While the Pacific ocean remains warmer than average, it has continued to cool steadily and most prevalently in the sub-surface. The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI), an atmosphere indicator of ENSO, has also dropped to a weak El Nino threshold indicating the atmosphere is in sync with the cooling in the Pacific ocean.

While indicators of El Nino show a weakening trend, the current event has and will continue to influence weather and climate of the islands over the next few months. Some Pacific island countries will continue to see lower than average rainfall and possible cyclone genesis west of the dateline as the warm pool moves westward.

The Pacific islands of Federated State of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Niue, Southern Cook Islands and Wallis and Futuna have potential high water stress due to lower than average rainfall.

For the full article: [Click here](#)

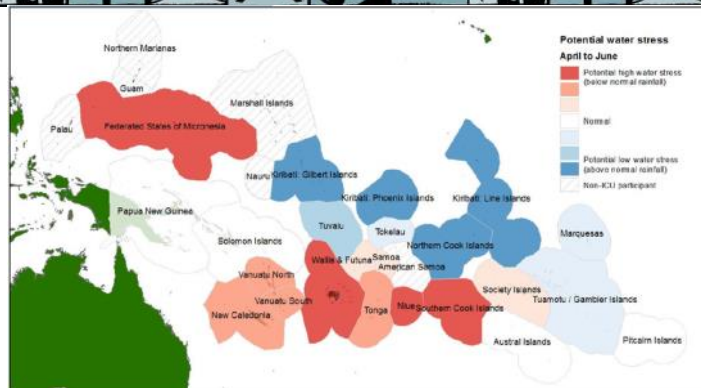
APEC Climate Center Climate Outlook for May-October 2016 (6-month forecast)

Synthesis of the latest model forecasts for May to October 2016 (MJJASO) at the APEC Climate Center (APCC), located at Busan, Korea, indicates the further decaying of El Niño with transition to the La-Nina-type conditions in the second half of forecast period.

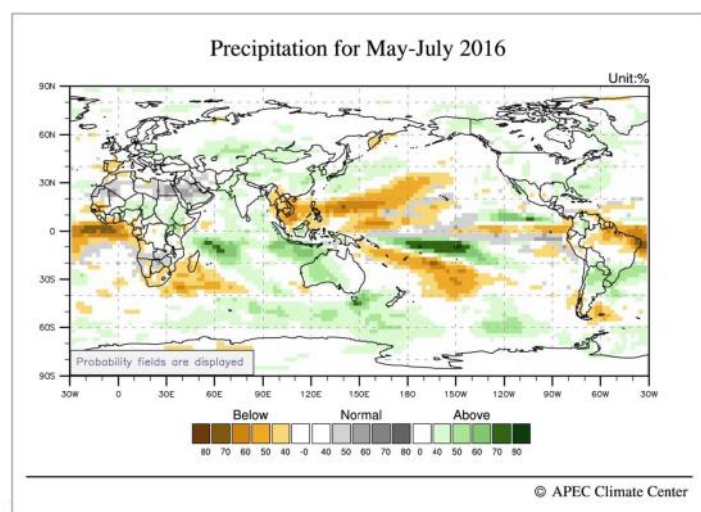
The forecasts for MJJ 2016 shows positive temperature anomalies to prevail over the globe, with highly probable above normal rainfalls in the central equatorial Pacific and below normal precipitation in Indochina and the Philippines.

The forecasts for ASO 2016 suggest further enhancement of equatorial Pacific cooling and associated negative precipitation anomalies.

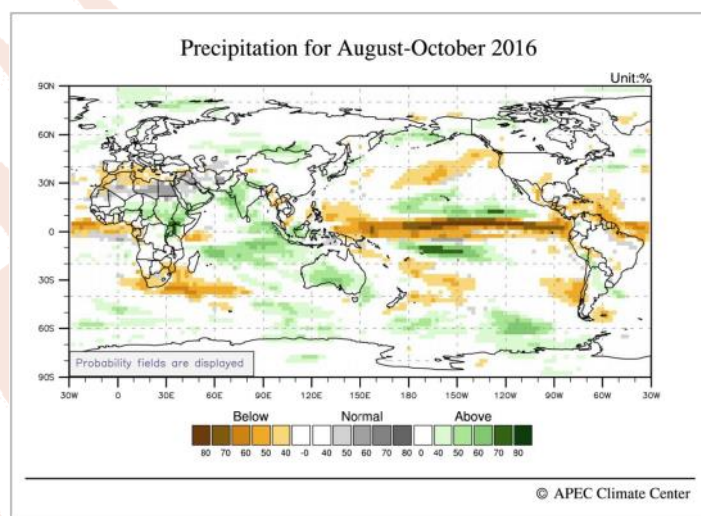
For the full article from APCC: [Click here](#)



Climate of Pacific Island countries are still influenced by current El Nino, despite signs of weakening.



Rainfall Outlook for May to July 2016.



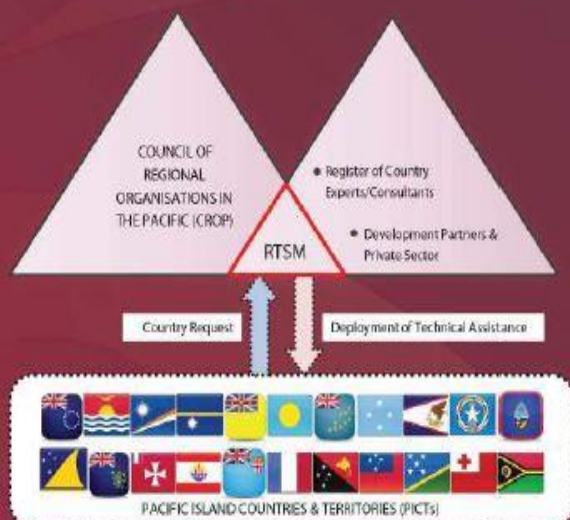
Rainfall Outlook for August to October 2016.



What is the RTSM?

The Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM) is a registered network of experts in climate change, who can provide coordinated and timely technical advice on appropriate resource opportunities, strategic approaches and technical assistance (TA) on climate change to PICTs on a needs basis.

They also provide where necessary, support in developing project proposals, preparing reporting requirements and implementing and monitoring projects.



How can PICTs make a request?

All proposals must use the approved Request Form.

- 1 Forms are available online via the: Pacific Climate Change Portal: www.pacificclimatechange.net
- 2 Completed forms must then be sent to the RTSM Coordinator: rtsm@sprep.org

For more information, please contact:

SPREP - Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa Tel: +685 21929 Fax: +685 20231 Email: rtsm@sprep.org

Our Vision: The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures

RTSM

Regional Technical Support Mechanism

and associated Rapid Response Fund (RRF)



Photo: © Clive/SPREP

RTSM

Regional Technical Support Mechanism

and associated Rapid Response Fund (RRF)

is to provide technical and advisory assistance for:

- Capacity building of members for climate finance, economic analysis and food security in relation to climate change



- Development of climate change finance project proposals that will trigger resourcing opportunities



- Inputs to policy development in mainstreaming CCA and DRR into national, sector and/or organisation plans (e.g. ministry work programmes and budgets)



- Assessing and addressing social aspects of climate change



- Development or strengthening of knowledge management systems





Climate Change Division (CCD) Calendar of Activities

Project / Activity	Date	Where
FINPAC Community Project <i>Coordinate and facilitate FINPAC Community Climate and Resilience workshop</i>	29 April - 6 May	Tuvalu
PPRC Mainstreaming in Tuvalu <i>Third training workshop to build awareness and capacity in Tuvalu Mainstreaming Tool#3: Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks (case study application on biogas); Follow-up meetings to assist operationalize the M&E frameworks developed for the Master Plan for Renewable Electricity and Energy Efficiency and the National Agriculture Sector Plan. Second training workshop.</i>	2 - 20 May	Tuvalu
FSM AF Proposal <i>Finalise the Project Results Framework of the AF Proposal, Revise the proposal to reflect CBA results of the Kosrae road, Facilitate the EIA assignment for the Kosrae Inland road, Provide technical support to FSM national government on the GCF project proposal, Provide technical support to RMI AF proposal</i>	2 - 31 May	Samoa/SPREP
SRDP Consultation <i>Briefing for Governments of Samoa and Tuvalu on key areas where the SRDP were reviewed.</i>	May Date to be advised	Samoa and Tuvalu
OHCO2W Conference and GOA ON Meeting <i>Present on PPOA project, Represent SPREP and the PPOA project at the GOA-ON meeting</i>	6 - 10 May	Australia
Climate and Ocean Support Program for the Pacific Steering Committee Meeting <i>Represent SPREP at the COSPPac Steering Committee Meeting</i>	9 - 11 May	Suva, Fiji
Vanuatu Green Climate Fund Readiness Consultations <i>Host and facilitate GCF national consultation with all relevant stakeholders, provide technical support to Vanuatu national government on the GCF proposal</i>	16 - 20 May	Vanuatu
UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies Meeting <i>Attend the OASIS and G-77 preparatory meetings and the main meetings, provide support and advice to the Pacific island countries delegates.</i>	12 - 26 May	Bonn, Germany
PIMOS Panel meeting and DBCP Workshop <i>Host and facilitate the PIMOS Panel meeting, co-host and represent SPREP in the DBCP PI-2 Ocean observing and data applications capacity building workshop</i>	23 - 27 May	New Caledonia
Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CARICOF) <i>Present on the Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF-1) at the kind invitation of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and CIMH</i>	25 - 31 May	Roseau, Dominica
Second Meeting of the Pacific Islands Aviation Weather Services (PIAWS) Panel <i>Attend the PIAWS Meeting and discuss issues relation to aviation weather services including quality management system and competency standards; cost recovery for aviation services; and safe skies for aviation services in the Pacific</i>	27 May	Nadi, Fiji

