

# CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS

Issue 37 August 2015



Unloading water tanks in Fais Island, FSM- part of the SPC EU GCCA:PSIS Project. Photo: SPC

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Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme

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ISSN: 2227-6947

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



## Director's Note



**Dr Netatua Pelesikoti**  
Climate Change Division Director  
SPREP

*Malo e lelei Readers,*

The *Climate Change Matters* newsletter this month features a collection of stories from the highly successful and first ever Pacific Ministerial Meeting for Meteorology was held in Nuku'alofa last month. The outcome of which, was a Ministerial Declaration calling for urgent support to National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in the Region and their services to reach all sectors and at all levels and communities.

The Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) play a critical role in collecting data for and disseminating early warnings and responses needed to expand to adaptation and risk reduction planning if our vulnerability were to be significantly minimised. This is where their services or technically known as climate services need to be used and consistently applied in development planning as basis for resiliency building.

In addition we have stories from two of our partners which highlights some project success in participating countries. As some of you also know this is the final year of implementation of the EU funded SPC GCCA PSIS Project, thus the final Steering Committee Meeting for the Project

will meet in Yap for the last time as they finalise implementation of the project.

You will also note there is an invitation to join the Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM) which is funded by ADB through the pilot programme on climate resilience (PPCR) and provides an innovative financial facility to rapidly respond to PICTS needs which I hope you will share with your respective networks.

'ofa atu,  
Netatua

## 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](http://www.sprep.org/Climate-Change/climate-change-about-us)

We kindly acknowledge the following donors and partners:







## **‘Climate Change Adaptation—the Pacific Way’ videos for FSM, Palau and Tuvalu completed.**

The European Union funded Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project, implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, has completed three short videos on lessons learnt from climate change adaptation projects in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Palau and Tuvalu.

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



## **Vanuatu leads Knowledge Hub exchanges between Pacific countries**

Tanolu community in the North West Area Council of Shefa Province is attracting Pacific-wide interest in its new Knowledge Hub demonstration crop for farmers to share skills and ideas. Knowledge Hubs are already being developed in Vanuatu's Tafea Province, and in other Pacific Island countries including Fiji, Solomon Islands and Tonga – ...

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



## **Women, children missing from Pacific agenda**

Women, children, elderly and disabled are often worst affected by diabetes but are missing from the agenda of the Third Pacific Meteorological meeting this week in Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

At a press conference this week, the PMC Chair, Ofa Fa'anunu was asked why vulnerable groups had been overlooked on the programme.

"That is a good question. Gender is an important issue being raised here and one of the members should have raised it."

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







## Latest numbers show at least 5 metres sea-level rise locked in

*It's too late to stop the seas rising at least 5 metres and only fast, drastic action will avert a 20-metre rise, New Scientist calculates based on recent studies.*

After speaking to the researchers behind a series of recent studies, New Scientist has made the first calculations of what their findings mean for how much sea level rise is already unavoidable, or soon will be.

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



## Is Samoa ready for another tsunami?

Samoa readiness for another tsunami hitting the country was questioned at a regional meeting of meteorology directors. At a presentation on Samoa's early warning systems, Samoa was asked if it was ready for a tsunami by chair of the Third Pacific Meteorological Council an head of the South West Pacific Tsunami working group, Ofa Fa'anunu. Principal Scientific Officer Weather Luteru Tauvale said he was confident that with Samoa having experienced a tsunami in 2009, it now had a system in place that made Samoa ready to respond.

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



## History made with the very first Pacific Ministers Meeting on Meteorology in Tonga

The very first Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology opened today in Tonga, following on from the Third Pacific Meteorological Council which came to an end yesterday evening. The Ministerial event was opened by HRH Prince Tupouto'a 'Ulukalala.

"Having a robust Weather Service is no longer a luxury for us but an obligation. ...

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





## New WMO and SPREP partnership to help enhance Pacific Meteorological Services

The World Meteorological Organization and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme formalised an agreement in Tonga today. The PacificMet Desk Partnership will manage and implement a programme of actions over a two year period to help ensure capacities and mechanisms for climate services production and delivery are in place in Small Islands Developing States, namely, the Pacific islands.

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



## Met Services need to enhance role to combat drought

Meteorological services need to enhance their role to combat severe drought effects, according to Chair of the Pacific Meteorological Council Mr. Ofa Fa'anunu.

Speaking at the first Pacific Ministerial Meet on Meteorology (PMMM), Mr. Fa'anunu said national governments should support and resource National Met services in their countries.

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



## Support still needed for early warning systems

Vanuatu's Climate Change Minister today called on development partners to continue to support the multi hazard early warning systems set up nationally, and around the Pacific region.

Commenting on the Multi-Hazards Early Warning System, Minister Thomas Laken highlighted the progress made in Vanuatu in the past three years.

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







## **RTSM ANNOUNCEMENT:**

### **Invitation to Register as a Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM) Expert**

Do you have expertise in climate change and related disaster risks? Would you like to assist Pacific island countries build resilience to these risks especially in the area of food security and infrastructure? If yes, register online now at <http://rtsm.pacificclimatechange.net> as a Regional Technical Support Mechanism (RTSM) expert.

The RTSM is a growing register of experts from the regional Pacific inter-governmental organisations, multilateral development Banks and development partners, national government institutions as well as independent consultants. The RTSM responds to the request of Pacific Island Countries (PICs) leaders for the establishment of a support mechanism to technical assistance to member countries in a timely manner. The range of potential technical assistance that can be provided is wide and includes *inter-alia*, capacity building, development of proposals for climate change financing, development of policies and strategic and policy level planning tools, training and mentoring, addressing the social aspects of climate change, climate risk assessment and profiling, integration of gender considerations as well as strengthening monitoring and evaluation frameworks and processes. All areas of potential technical assistance are detailed in the RTSM Operations Manual also available on the RTSM website.

Independent consultants from the Pacific region are particularly encouraged to apply. Remuneration is provided at commercial rates for consultants who are deployed.

*Share your expertise and help the Pacific build resilience to climate change and related disasters by registering online today*

## **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**The 5th Planning and Steering Committee Meeting of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's (SPC) Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) Project, funded by the European Union**

The 5th Planning and Steering Committee Meeting of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's (SPC) Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS)

Project, funded by the European Union, will bring together 65 participants from the nine smaller Pacific Island countries and development partners in Colonia, Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia, from 31st August – 2nd September 2015. The meeting will be held at The Marina, Colonia. Meeting participants will review the project's progress and discuss the remaining activities to be completed before the project's completion in November 2016. The delegates will also visit the project sites in Fais Island and Yap State.

Following this, a two-day Lessons Learnt Meeting will be held from 3-4<sup>th</sup> September 2015 to share information about the successes and challenges experienced during the project's implementation since its commencement in 2012 in the nine project countries, namely, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu. Identification of lessons learnt and how to share and apply them as widely as possible within the Pacific region will be a key focus.

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| CALENDAR - August 2015 Activities  | Date            | Location               |
|--|-----------------|------------------------|
| IRENA Workshop on Financing for Renewable Energy in SIDS                       | 3— 4 Aug        | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |
| Pacific ICLIM Data Stocktake/Inventory   | 3— 7 Aug        | Tonga                  |
| Forum Officials Committee Pre-Forum Session                                    | 12— 3 Aug       | Fiji                   |
| Pacific iCLIM Vulnerability & Assessment Decision Support Tool Scoping Mission | 17 – 21 Aug     | Fiji                   |
| Loss And Damage Meeting and UNFCCC ADB   | 25 Aug – 4 Sept | Germany                |
| eGovernment in the Pacific Islands - Authors Workshop                          | 27 – 28 Aug     | New Zealand            |
| Regional Ocean Acidification Vulnerability Assessment Meeting                  | 27 – 28 Aug     | Fiji                   |