

# Climate Change Matters

Photo: © Stuart Chape

## Warm Pacific Greetings,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the first issue of the Climate Change Matters Newsletter for 2021. As we steer our vaka (canoe) into this new year, we take a moment to reflect on the triumphs and challenges that we faced during 2020. We take the lessons learnt from the past year and use it to build back stronger and better. The Pacific has shown once again its' resilience during times of adversity and we continue to work together and adapt to achieve our shared goals and visions.

With no time to waste we have started the year off with some key initiatives, such as supporting the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department to strengthen and expand its climate and oceans observations networks by procuring a network of eight new automated weather stations, eight new automated rainfall gauges; automated river monitoring gauge, and a C-band weather radar. This was made possible by funding from the Green Climate Fund under the Vanuatu Climate Information Services for Resilient Development Project. The procurement and installation of these instruments has already started and will become operational before 2021/2022 tropical cyclone season.

Some significant events that we look forward to this week include the official launch of the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) E-learning platform which will be held at the PCCC and virtually.

A series of trainings on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) for Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services will also roll out as we celebrate International Women's Day.

Colleagues, the work continues, and we remain grateful for your support and joint efforts as we proceed to build resilience in our Pacific region.

Soifua ma ia manuia,

**Tagaloa**

Director of Climate Change Resilience

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

## Director's Note



Tagaloa Cooper







## ANNOUNCING THE PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE E-LEARNING PLATFORM TO BE LAUNCHED SOON

The Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) is set to launch its new online e-learning platform on Friday 12 March, 2021. The PCCC is the regional centre of excellence for information, training, and research on climate change in the Pacific. A vital component of the PCCC's work and contribution to Members and the public is its ability to provide, coordinate and facilitate capacity-building and training.

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## GCF FUNDING TO STRENGTHEN CLIMATE AND OCEANS OBSERVATIONS FOR VANUATU

The Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department has received funding support from the Green Climate Fund to strengthen and expand its climate and oceans observations networks. The funding is part of the Vanuatu Climate Information Services for Resilient Development in Vanuatu project; locally known as the Van-KIRAP (Vanuatu Klaemet Blong Redy, Adapt mo Protekt), and was accessed through SPREP as the Accredited Entity.

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## NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AND HYDROLOGICAL SERVICES ENHANCING SERVICE DELIVERY THROUGH GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (GESI) LENS

Steps to enhance Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in our Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services are underway as the region strives to enhance climate information and service delivery for all.

A series of trainings on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), will begin in March this year.

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## ONWARDS AND UPWARDS! FORMER SPREP YOUTH AMBASSADOR NOMINATED FOR PRESTIGIOUS NEW ZEALAND AWARD

The nomination of Ms Brianna Fruean, for the "University of Canterbury Young New Zealander of the Year 2021 - Te Mātātahi o te Tau" was a joyful moment for SPREP. Ms Fruean worked very closely with SPREP as the first youth Ambassador for the leading environmental organisation of the Pacific in 2015 at 16 years of age.

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## IDENTIFYING AND ADDRESSING KNOWLEDGE GAPS IN ADAPTATION IN THE PACIFIC REGION

The Pacific islands have repeatedly been recognised as one of the most vulnerable regions to the impacts of climate change. However, a key international initiative has acknowledged the existence of research and data gaps in Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) such as the Pacific.

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## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE TRAINING DELIVERED BY FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA ADAPTATION FUND PROJECT

Ensuring that the people in six outer islands of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) have access to clean water for consumption and are managing their water systems well to ensure their health and safety, was the main objective of a training carried out by the FSM Adaptation Fund (AF) Project in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

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## ROLLING OUT OF TOOLS FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROJECTS

Orientation sessions on using impact assessment tools were recently held with representatives from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Palau, who along with Tonga, have been selected to trial an impact methodology to assess past climate change adaptation interventions. These efforts are part of the European Union-funded Global Climate Change Alliance Plus - Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) project.

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## SUPPORTING PACIFIC SIDS ENGAGEMENT WITH IPCC

Climate Analytics, in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and with the support of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy of the Government of the United Kingdom, successfully delivered the second webinar on March 2nd, 2021 in an ongoing series which supports Pacific countries to develop comments for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Report 6 (AR6) drafts during the Government and Expert Review rounds.

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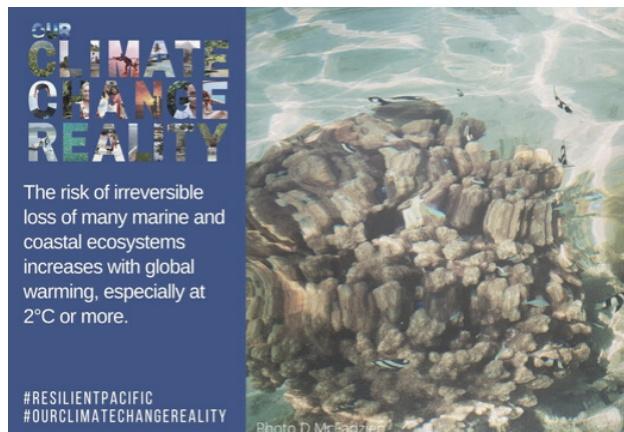




## MARSHALL ISLANDS RECEIVES TAILOR-MADE TRAINING ON MRV OF GHG EMISSIONS FROM THE NDC HUB

The Regional Pacific NDC Hub held a two-day virtual training on measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of greenhouse gas emissions for the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) from 03 – 04 February 2021. Delivered by the Hub's implementing partner, the Global Green Growth Institute, the training was designed as a response to RMI's request for such a training aimed at in-country national agencies which are involved in implementing and reporting on the country's NDC.

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## COSPPAC CLIMATE SUMMARY

Issued 05 February 2021

- La Niña is likely to have peaked but impacts are expected to persist to March.
- A moderate to strong Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) pulse is expected to move slowly eastwards into the central Pacific in the next week or two.
- The OLR total and anomaly maps suggest the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was less active than normal. The South Pacific Convergence Zone (SPCZ) on the other hand, was active and shifted to the southwest.
- The January Rainfall image is dominated by a large area of reduced convection stretching over the western to central equatorial Pacific, with the main centre west of the Date Line.
- January Mean Sea Level Pressure (MSLP) anomaly negative anomalies east of about 160° in the tropical Pacific. Positive anomalies were present in the southern sub-tropical Pacific east of Samoa.
- Coral bleaching was on Alert Level 1 and 2 just north of PNG and parts of western Solomon Islands with watch and warning alerts for remainder of the countries.
- For February to April 2021, the dynamical models (as well as SCOPIC) agree on above normal rainfall for Palau, FSM, central to northern Marshall Islands, areas in Southern Regions of PNG, eastern Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, southern Tonga, Niue, southern Cook Islands and southern French Polynesia. The models also agree on below normal rainfall for southern Marshall Islands, New Guinea's Momase and Islands regions, Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Tokelau, northern Cook Islands and central and northern French Polynesia.

### CALENDAR - MARCH

2	IPCC WGIII Draft Review Webinar (Virtual)
8	International Women's Day
8-12	7th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Network (APAN) Forum (Virtual)
8-30	5th CBCRP-PCCC training on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (Virtual)
9	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Training (Virtual)
10	GCCA+ SUPA/Tonga Virtual Partners Mixer & Tool Orientation (Virtual)
11	GCCA+ SUPA Virtual Steering Committee Meeting (Virtual)
12	Official Launch of the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) E-learning Platform
16	Links between social inclusion and NMHSs climate information and services delivery Training (Virtual)
22-23	Vanuatu WMO Day and Van-KIRAP Site assessments in Torba Province

23 World Meteorological Day

26 Pacific Climate Change Centre Advisory Board Meeting (Virtual)

### CALENDAR - APRIL

6	Organisational barriers to social inclusion Training (Virtual)
7-23	SPREP and Countries NAP Training by GCF (Virtual)
14	GCCA+ SUPA Virtual Steering Committee Meeting
21	Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (Virtual)
21-22	Pacific Islands Ocean Acidification Monitoring Dialogue

### CALENDAR - MAY

4-6	Pacific Resilience Meeting
31	UNFCCC 1st Sessional Period 2021

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### DONORS AND PARTNERS



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