

CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS

Issue 43 March 2016

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

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Director's Note



Dr Netatua Pelesikoti
Climate Change Division Director
SPREP

Dear colleagues and friends,

What we know from the past and **present will lead to a 'Hotter, Drier and Wetter' climate. These are the future** climate projections from the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

Our current livelihoods and most related development processes are shaped with what we know. If we were aware of the future up to 30, 50 or 90 years ahead what changes would we make? What would we do now?

I think these are very critical questions for our Governments and for the people of the Pacific. Are we strengthening our natural environment and resources for the future changes?

Are we building capacities to understand and plan for these changes?

Are we acquiring technologies that would benefit from a hotter, drier and wetter climate?

Are we preparing our people and our communities for these changes?

These are food for thoughts and actions. This edition of *Climate Change Matters* highlights some climate change activities around the region that will contribute to our resilience building.

I hope you enjoy reading these and, as always, I am happy to hear from you!

'ofa atu,

Neta

About Us

SPREP's Climate Change Division (CC) 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:





Training and capacity building for a future filled with clean water - PIGGAREP+

Wanting to make a positive difference in the world is one thing, knowing the best way to make that difference is another, yet for **the Kingdom of Tonga** this 'best way' seems to have been found and is being put to use.

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



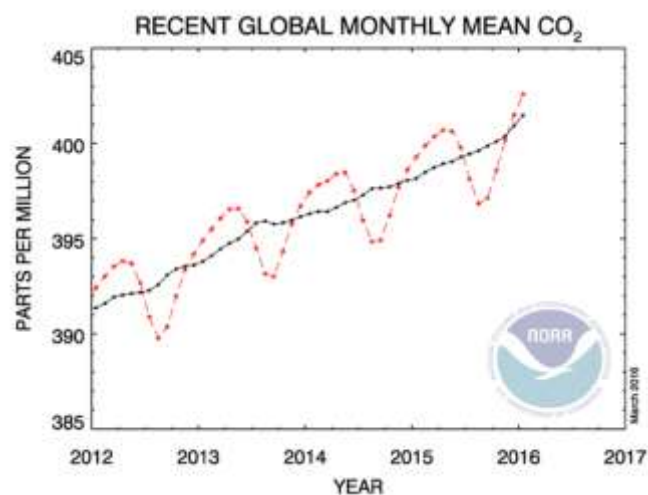
Communities celebrating solar pumps

Carbon dioxide levels in atmosphere spike

The annual growth rate of atmospheric carbon dioxide measured at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii jumped by 3.05 parts per million during 2015, the largest year-to-year increase in 56 years of research, according to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The development is significant because Mauna Loa Observatory is the oldest continuous atmospheric measurement station in the world and is widely regarded as a benchmark site in the World Meteorological Organization's Global Atmosphere Watch network.

For more information: [Click here](#)



Global Monthly Mean Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)

February heatwave brought Tonga's hottest day on record.

The hottest day in Tonga's recorded history was 35.5C at **Niuafo'ou on February 1 this year**, when a long heatwave was experienced during the month prior to Cyclone Winston reaching Tonga.

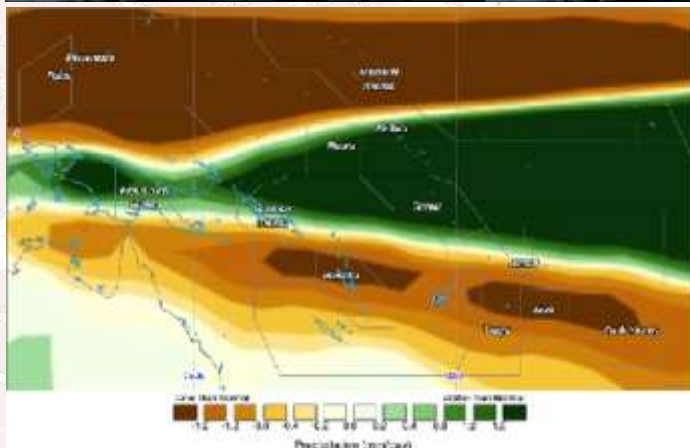
February's heatwave was felt throughout Tonga.

For the full article from Matangi Tonga Online: [Click here](#)



Heatwave in Tonga (photo credit: Sunny Seuseu)





Deterministic Rainfall Forecast for March-April 2016 season, created by SPREP's CLIKP

El Niño Update: El Niño weakens but sectoral impacts remain.

The 2015/16 El Niño is showing signs of weakening, though this does not mean that the observed impacts seen across the Pacific islands will diminish right away. The effects of El Niño in many islands will continue to be felt through the remainder of the year.

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

Making climate change adaptation in Kiribati understandable to all.

Complex information gathered during an assessment of Abaiang atoll in Kiribati has been simplified with the support of USAID into a new, easy to understand publication for communities, schools and non-technical audiences.

The publication presents Abaiang's exposure to the effects of climate change and disaster risks from a technical as well as local community perspective. The key concerns of communities included accessing drinking water, coastal erosion, increasing temperature and diminishing land and marine resources.

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



Abaiang Atoll, Kiribati. Integrated Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment report.

Pacific iCLIM project team meets for 2016.

The Pacific iCLIM project team met at Griffith University, Gold Coast campus from the 16 to the 17 March, this year. The workshop focussed on the themes: developing Strategic Information and Knowledge Management Frameworks, the Pacific Climate Change Portal (www.pacificclimatechange.net) Upgrade and Launch, Regional and National Awareness Raising, Decision Support Tool Development and Deployment, Traditional Knowledge and Community Adaptation, and Critical pathways for Pacific iCLIM (<https://www.griffith.edu.au/research/research-excellence/pacific-iclim>) to be successful.

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



The Pacific iCLIM project team.





SPREP honoured by UNFCCC for ensuring side event in Paris was green.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat has included SPREP in the list of side event organisers at the Paris Climate Change meeting that met high environmental standards. For COP21 the UNFCCC received 820 side event applications for their events for which only 220 were selected – including SPREP who has a history of being event organisers that commit to green principles.

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



Mr. Leota Kosi Latu, Director General-SPREP and
Ms. Brianna Fruean, SPREP's Youth Ambassador

Media and communications skills training for Solomon Islands Meteorological Services.

Learning how to conduct an interview, prepare press releases and build relationships with the media were all part of the training conducted for the Solomon Islands Meteorological Services (SIMS) in Honiara this month.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) facilitated the media training for SIMS staff, in partnership with the Solomon Islands Red Cross and the National Disaster Management Office. **"It's very important for the Meteorology staff to be able to talk to the media,"** said Mr. David Hiba Hiriassia, Director of the Solomon Islands Meteorological Service.

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



Geogina Lepping of PAOA FM station in the Solomons Islands, reporting back on group work.

New climate change policy contributes to a more resilient Tonga by 2035.

The Pacific Community (SPC) and the European Union (EU) have welcomed the endorsement by the Government of Tonga of a new national climate change policy.

The five-year policy sets out to achieve the vision of a resilient Tonga by 2035 through specific environmental, social and economic targets, ultimately aimed at increasing Tonga's resilience to impacts of climate change.

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



Tonga resilient to impacts of climate change.
(Photo credit: Gianluca Serra)





Local Tuvaluan farmer exhibits fruit of his labour

Agroforestry project in Tuvalu begins to bear fruit

Farmers and communities in Tuvalu are beginning to see positive results from the agroforestry demonstration sites that **have been established through the Pacific Community's (SPC) Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) initiative**, supported by the European Union. More than 50 people attended an official closing event on 15th February, 2016 including government ministers and secretaries, the Taiwanese Ambassador to Tuvalu, H.E. Jen-Chung Su, the project team in Tuvalu, farmers, landowners, youth groups and other stakeholders.

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

Climate Change Glossary launched in Marshall Islands

The first Republic of the Marshall Islands National Climate Change Glossary was launched on Friday, 19th of February 2016, by the Public School System and the Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination (OEPPC) with the blessing of Minister Mattlan Zackhras and Minister Wilbur Heine.

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

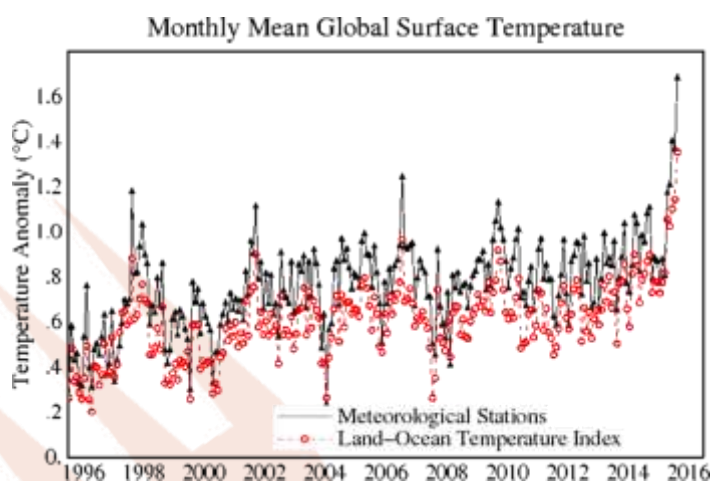


Officials at the Launch of the Climate Change glossary.

February 2016 Sets Record For Monthly Warming

The global monthly mean surface temperature anomaly for **February 2016 have eclipsed the last year's record by 0.4°C**, reaching 1.35°C. The previous monthly record, set in January 2016 was 1.14°C and last year's annual record was 0.84°C. These temperature anomalies are calculated against a baseline period of 1951-1980, **so this increase doesn't** represent the full change since the industrial revolution.

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



Sea surface temperature anomalies (temperatures above the seasonal average) in the Pacific Region.





South-south exchange to inform water quality monitoring in Nauru

Nauru is aiming to create a robust water quality monitoring programme to better manage its drinking water resources. In order to learn the best way to do this in the Pacific context, **Mr. Jaden Agir, Nauru's Water Strategy Manager, Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment (CIE)**, spent two weeks in Kiribati in December 2015 and in February 2016 attached to the Environmental Health Unit of the Kiribati Ministry of Health and Medical Services.

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

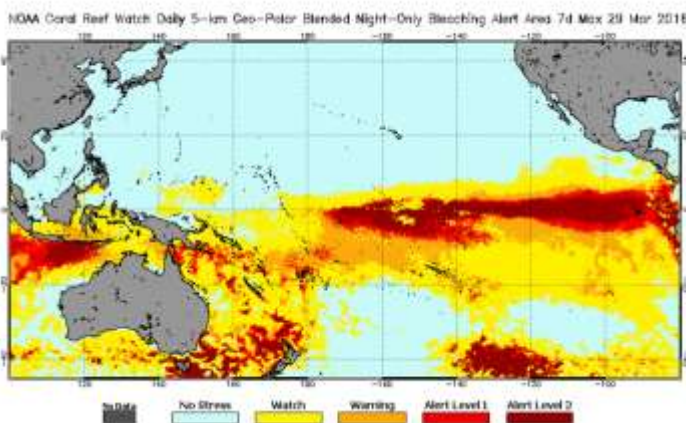


Water quality activities in the region

Coral Bleaching update

According to information from US NOAA's Coral Reef Watch low-latitudes in the central and eastern Pacific are still at considerable risk to coral bleaching (Alert Level 2). As the current El Nino continues to weaken the warm pool will begin to move further west, and it is predicted that for the next month that low-latitude waters in the central and western Pacific will start to warm.

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



NOAA Coral Reef Watch coral bleaching alerts for 29 March 2016.

Trilateral partnership established in Solomon Islands to prepare communities for bad times ahead

A unique partnership between the Solomon Islands Meteorological Service (SIMS), Red Cross and the National Disaster Management Office has been established through the Finland-Pacific (FINPAC) Project that is coordinated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) for the Pacific.

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



Alexi Rilifia from Solomon Islands Met takes notes during the **Women's Focus Group Discussion**



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:

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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)



PICTs 2015 November 2015

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





Members of the Kiribati National Expert Group travelling to the islets of Abaiang for Whole of Island approach

Community Early Warning Systems planned to complement Whole of Island Approach on Abaiang

The planning of community based early warning systems in one selected village on Abaiang is underway. This is a nationally driven initiative supported by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) through the Finland-Pacific (FINPAC) Project.

Kiribati Meteorological Service (KMS) Director Ueneta Toorua is happy that the Media Training and the community early warning consultation and pilot projects planned will benefit his country. According to Toorua "the role of the Media remains critical in getting the warnings out to our people especially those in outer islands, and this opportunity will also help my staff to work better with the media and develop a Glossary of Meteorology terminology- something we wanted to do for a long time".

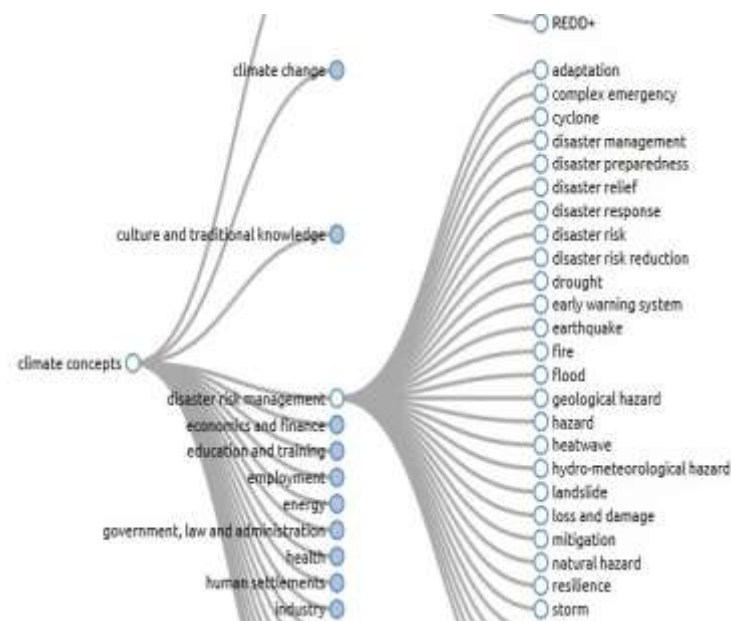
For the full article: [Click here](#)

Towards a common vocabulary for Climate Change – reflections and next steps

As the Open Knowledge Hub project has evolved we've seen a number of exciting new ideas and collaborations emerge from among the project partners that really push forward the Open Knowledge agenda.

A good example of this came from a subset of partners with a shared interest in climate knowledge sharing. The project partners – Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) had identified an opportunity to learn from each other to improve how the climate change information they held was being structured and described. They also recognised that working together to address this issue should not only improve their ability to share their own information effectively but could also make a wider contribution of value to other knowledge brokers in the sector.

For the full article from OKhub.org: [Click here](#)



Tree view of SPREP's vocabulary using SKOS Play.

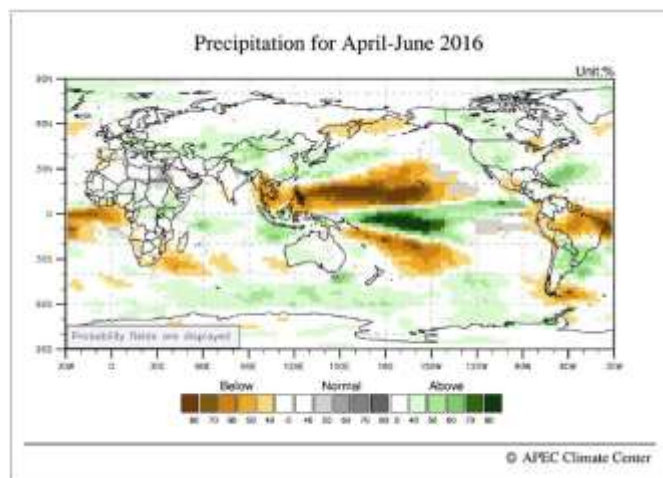




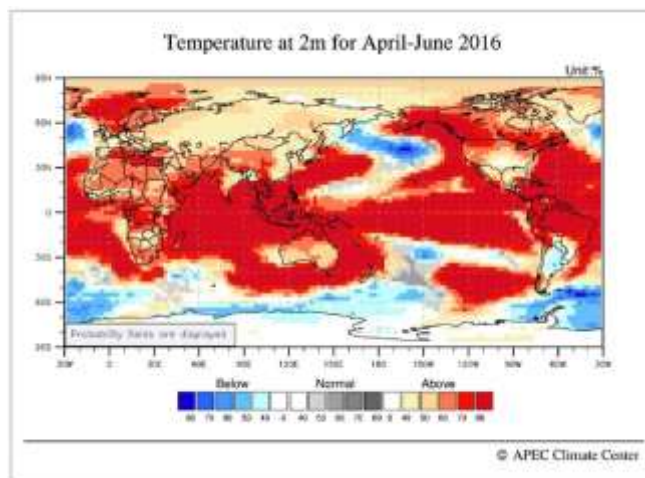
Republic of Korea-Pacific Islands Climate Prediction Project—Outlook Forecast for the period April to September 2016 (AMJJAS 2016)

Synthesis of the latest model forecasts for April to September 2016 (AMJJAS) at the APEC Climate Center (APCC), located at Busan, Korea, indicates the decaying phase of El Niño. The forecasts for AMJ 2016 shows positive temperature anomalies to prevail over the globe, with above normal rainfalls being highly probable in the equatorial Pacific surrounded by the negative precipitation anomalies in the subtropical Pacific. The forecasts for JAS 2016 suggest persistence of prevailing of positive temperature anomalies over the globe and a neutral ENSO phase with slightly negative temperature and rainfall anomalies in the equatorial Pacific.

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



Rainfall Outlook for April to June 2016



Temperature Outlook for April to June 2016.

CLIMATE CHANGE DIVISION CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES – APRIL 2016

Activity	Date	Where
Tokelau Training Attachment	04 April	Samoa
SmartMet Training & SmartAlert Installation and Training for Samoa Meteorological Division	04 -15 April	Samoa Met Office
HLSM Meeting	06 -8 April	Samoa
Oceania 22 Meeting	11 – 13 April	New Caledonia
FINPAC Community Consultations	14 – 28 April	Kiribati
Pacific Climate Change Portal Upgrade Soft Launch	15 April	Samoa
SPREP IT Training for SmartMet/SmartAlert (FINPAC Products)	18 – 22 April	Samoa
DPCC & SRDP Meetings	21 – 29 April	Fiji
SmartMET IT Training for SmartMET Weather Forecast Systems	25 – 29 April	Samoa
Green Climate Fund Implementing Entity Workshop	25 – 29 April	Rep. of Korea

