

CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS

ISSUE 45 | MAY 2016



The proposed PCCC to be built at the SPREP campus in Apia, Samoa.

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Director's Note

May has been a busy month for all. This issue brings to your attention, news on Pacific countries preparing for readiness for GCF funding, it also features the usual forecasts that we bring you every month. We are also very pleased to have two female interns from the government of Tokelau to build their capacity in climate and meteorological skills as Tokelau plans to re-open their observation stations on all three atolls.

This month we feature a story on the formalisation of and plans for the Pacific Climate Change Centre to be hosted at the SPREP compound here in Samoa early next year.

We also continue to support our member countries in global climate change dialogue and have had our representatives on the ground in Bonn, Germany, to provide assistance as discussions progress on how to operationalise the Paris Agreement on Climate Change adopted in December 2015.

I take this opportunity to invite you to peruse the improved Pacific Climate Change Portal which is now available and on line and amongst other features it hosts the donor database, a documents library, and education resources.

Ofa Atu,

Neta

Dr Netatua Pelesikoti
Climate Change Division Director, SPREP





Proposed PCCC Design.

Pacific Climate Change Centre to begin construction June 2017

The Pacific islands are a step closer to having their very own Pacific Climate Change Centre to be hosted at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) campus in Apia, Samoa.

A special signing between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Government of Samoa, with SPREP to finalise the minutes of discussion which marks the end of the preparatory survey took place in Apia in May. This is the final stage before submission to the Cabinet of the Government of Japan in July, followed by the signing of the Exchange of Notes in August.

“The Samoan Government is excited to be part of this project. It reflects the priority the Government attaches to the climate change agenda,” said Lavea Tupaimatuna Iulai Lavea, Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of Finance of the Government of Samoa.

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Some of the Pacific island delegates in Bonn for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change subsidiary bodies meetings. Photo: Dr Mahendra Kumar, Niue Delegation

Pacific in Bonn

Over 50 delegates from 14 Pacific island countries joined the first official session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) session in Bonn, this month, where many of the discussions are focusing on how to operationalise the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, adopted in December last year.

To assist Pacific island countries present, SPREP, in partnership with other regional agencies such as the Pacific Islands Development Forum; UNDP Pacific Office, and with remote support from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, provided on-site support to delegates. This built upon the results of the High Level Support Mechanism workshop that was held in Apia, Samoa, prior to the formal session, and builds upon the coordinated approach that was developed amongst Pacific partners in the lead up to COP 21 in December last year.

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Pacific delegation. Photo: Ana Tiraa

Green Climate Fund training workshop on Readiness Fund

A common thread of the ‘Readiness Week’ of training to help direct access entities in developing their project ideas was the hands-on approach and the fostering of collaboration and partnerships among National Designated Authority’s and Accredited Entities (AEs).

The week-long event coordinated by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) brought together the 13 organisations that have been accredited for direct access to the Fund, as well as 27 developing countries, represented by a National Designated Authority or Focal Point (NDA/FP). Nearly 100 people took part in the sessions including representatives from Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, and African States.

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Ms. Christiana Figueres, the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC and Dr Riyad M Mucadam, Senior Advisor Climate Change in Marshall Islands.

Pacific islands involvement in the IPCC processes

Article submitted by Riyad M. Mucadam, Ph.D. Senior Advisor, OEPPC/Off. of President, Republic of the Marshall Islands

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Subsidiary Bodies of Science and of Implementation- conference (SB44) was held at the World Conference Center in Bonn from 10-26 May. The conference of 197 countries represented by over 1500 delegates and hundreds of representatives of numerous NGOs continued the important negotiations after the Paris Agreement reached at COP21 last year. The conference focused on the way forward in implementing the Paris Agreement through the Subsidiary body for Technical Advice and the Subsidiary body for Implementation and numerous technical subcommittees for mitigation, adaptation, technology and finance.

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Improved Pacific Climate Change Portal now at your fingertips

The revamped Pacific Climate Change Portal (www.pacificclimatechange.net) is now online and available for use.

Known as PCCP Version 2.0 the upgrade of this one-stop-shop for Pacific islands climate change information was made possible through a partnership between the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Griffith University through the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) funded Pacific iCLIM Project and the GIZ Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Islands Region Project.

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SPREP facilitates range of training seminars for crew of Va'a Gaulofa

Published on 13 May 2016

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) has begun a series of training seminars with the crew from the Samoa Voyaging Society's traditional sailing vessel, Gaulofa, to help strengthen their understanding of environmental issues.

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SPREP through the Pacific Meteorological Desk and Partnership host two work attachments from Tokelau.

SPREP has welcomed two interns from Tokelau for a six month attachment which began in April this year. Ms. Solonaima Mei and Ms. Meleka Mativa are working closely with the Pacific Met Desk and Partnership (PMDP) based at SPREP to strengthen their climate and metrological skills as Tokelau endeavours to re-open observation stations on all three atolls; Fakaofu, Nukunonu and Atafu.

The work attachment will help Ms. Mei and Ms. Mativa to engage in key activities related to climate data collection, observations, weather forecasting, geo hazards, early warning system, ocean acidification, quality management and competency standards. It also provides the opportunity for them to learn more about SPREP, the Climate Change Division (CCD) and the many different projects such as the Finnish-Pacific (FINPAC) Project, Korean-Pacific Project, Canada-WMO project and others.

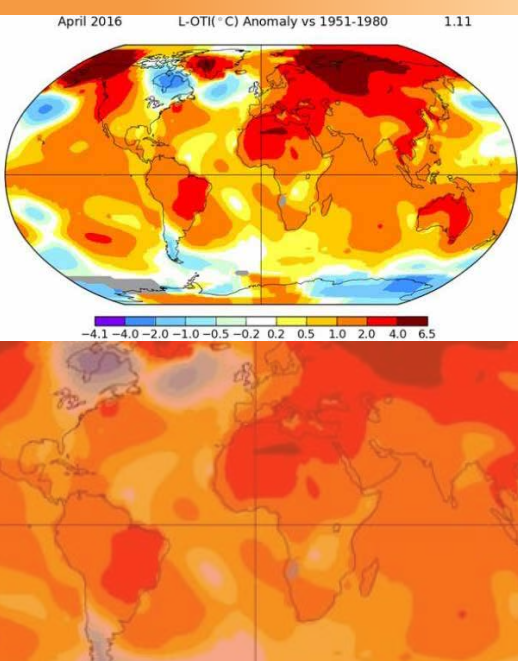
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April continues record temperature streak

Global temperature records were broken yet again in April for the 12th consecutive month, the longest such streak in the 137-year record of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Overall, 13 out of the 15 highest monthly temperature departures in the record have all occurred since February 2015.

NOAA said the combined average temperature over global land and ocean surfaces for April 2016 was 1.10°C (1.98°F) above the 20th century average of 13.7°C (56.7°F) - the highest temperature departure for April since global records began in 1880. This value surpassed the previous record set in 2010 by 0.28°C (0.50°F).

SEE MORE AT: <http://public.wmo.int/en/media/news/april-continues-record-temperature-streak#sthash.0LlhPn7M.dpuf>





Participants of the SmartMET Training. Photo | SPREP

Improving Weather and Climate Forecasts for Pacific Communities

Bridging the gap between Information Technology and Pacific Meteorological Services to bring about improved weather and climate forecasts and warnings for Pacific communities is at the core of training held in Samoa this week.

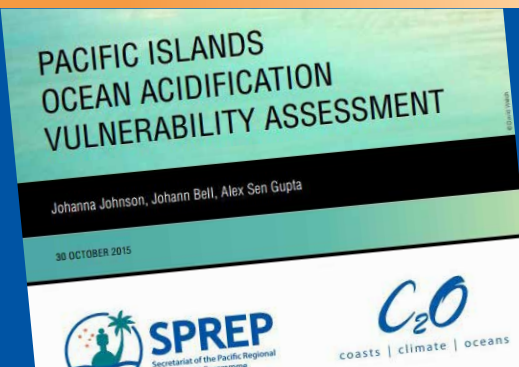
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Ocean Acidification Report for the Pacific Islands

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.

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NOTICES



Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) is organising its flagship Forum on 17–19 October 2016 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The 5th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum 2016 is now open for registration.

This year, the theme “Adapting and Living below 2°C: Bridging the Gaps in Policy & Practice” will explore platforms and concrete pathways for even greater partnerships by governments, civil society, and business. With the growing interest and with the recognition of adaptation not only as a development imperative but as an existential one as well, we are looking forward to welcoming more than 800 participants who will be looking towards meaningful outcomes during the event.

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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



PROJECTS/EVENTS	DETAILS	DATE	WHERE
PRRP Regional Board Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represent SPREP at the UNDP PRRP Regional Board Meeting 	31 May – 2 June	Tonga
CC Negotiation Workshop for Pacific Is Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide assistance in the Australia National University (ANU) course to provide negotiations training to Pacific island women delegates to the UN climate change processes 	6 – 9 June	Suva, Fiji
Pacific Energy Summit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend meeting on climate change finance with other CROP agencies, development partners, funding agencies and UNFCCC Secretariat (6 June) Attend Pacific Energy Summit (half day 7 June) in support of DG 	7 June	Auck, NZ
Tempest Express 16 Defense and climate change seminar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend defense and climate change seminar to present on Paris Agreement and other climate change work in the region and participate in workshops 	7 – 9 June	French Poly
Pacific ICLIM Training Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate training for ICLIM Drupal Administrators Facilitate PCCP Training Workshop 	7 – 9 June	Fiji
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate PCCP & IKM Training Workshop 	14 – 15 June	Vanuatu
Pacific Climate Change Portal Launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint formal launch by SPREP and Griffith University 	17 June	SPREP
Monitoring Site Visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. Monitoring Site Visit to FSM 	20 – 24 June	FSM
Challenge Workshop for Strategic Plan with Change Factory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Plan workshop with Change Factory for all SPREP Staff 	24 June	SPREP
Partnership Courtesy Visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. Courtesy & Strategy Visit SPREP 	27 June	SPREP



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PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa • Ph: +685 21929 • sprep@sprep.org

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