

Issue 15 — August 2013

CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS

Fijian highlands Photo: Carlo Iacovino

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CLIMATE CHANGE DIVISION

SPREP, Apia, Samoa

T: +685 21929

E: climatechange@sprep.org

W: www.sprep.org

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Director's Note



Dr Netatua Pelesikoti

Climate Change Division Director, SPREP

Dear Readers,

The August CCM issue features a collection of regional media stories from the following three regional meetings in July, in Fiji.

- The Pacific Meteorological Council 1-5 July
- The Pacific Climate Change Roundtable 3-5 July 2013
- Joint Meeting of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management & the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable 8th to 11th July 2013

I would like to convey my appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the Pacific Media team consisting of reporters from Fiji, FSM, PACNEWS, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga.

This month's edition also highlights Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) and Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGAREP) publications and stories.

I hope you enjoy reading these reflections.

About Us

SPREP's Climate Change Division (CCD) is made up of three programmes:

1. Adaptation;
2. Mitigation; and
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

Integration is not a threat - it's an opportunity

The Director General of the Secretariat of Regional Environment Programme, David Sheppard says integration is a great opportunity for the region to deal with the impacts of climate change and disasters.

In his closing remarks at the Joint Meeting of the 2013 Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management (PPDRM) and Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR), he said any strategy or process is only as good as the outcomes and the results it delivers for the countries and people of the Pacific.

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



Mr. David Sheppard, Director-General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Many positive lessons learnt from joint meetings on Disaster and Climate



Mosese Sikivou (Manager Community Risk programme) and Dr Netatua Pelesikoti (Director Climate Change Division, SPREP)

Organisers of the first ever Joint Meeting of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Pacific Climate Change Roundtable in Fiji have described the meeting as an 'amazing' experience bringing the two communities together to find common grounds to work together for the benefit of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs).

"We need to move away from the thinking that Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management are confined to only some sectors".

Dr Netatua Pelesikoti (Director Climate Change Division, SPREP)

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

New climate forecasting technology at the Pacific Meteorological Council

Droughts and floods have always occurred in the Pacific Islands, but they are predicted to increase in intensity and frequency over this century. Severe events can devastate Pacific Island environments, economies, and livelihoods.

Now, thanks to access to data and new technology, Pacific Island Meteorology Departments are better able to predict events and thus help citizens prepare for them. Developed for the Pacific by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, one such technological tool is a computer program called SCOPIC, or Seasonal Climate Outlooks in Pacific Island Countries.

Country representatives at the Second Pacific Meteorological Council Meeting held in Nadi, Fiji, from 1 to 5 July praised the system.

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



Lau Islands, Fiji

Featured publication - Climate change mainstreaming guide

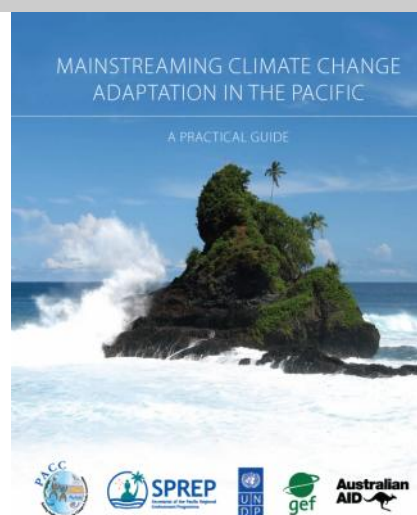
The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) Project has launched a comprehensive practical guide to mainstreaming climate change adaptation in the Pacific.

"The aim is to have climate risks included as a matter of course in all decision making at all levels"

Taito Nakalevu, PACC Project Manager

A key output of the project, the guide represents a significant step forward in incorporating climate risks into development planning and practice in the region.

Download the full guide: [Click here](#)



Pacific Meteorology Services to enhance their standards



Workshop participants at SPREP

Under rules established by the International Civil Aviation Organization, all Meteorological Services must have a Quality Management System in place if they are providing weather information to the aviation industry.

The Pacific Meteorological Desk, based at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), is helping Pacific Meteorological Services ensure their staff are able to satisfy competency standards as an integral part of their Quality Management certification through a series of workshops under a special project funded by the Government of Finland.

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

Gender mainstreaming for the PIGGAREP renewable energy project

A recent workshop in Nadi considered the objectives of understanding better how to mainstream gender equality issues into Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP), and incorporating gender indicators into the project log frame.

During the workshop, participants learned about some renewable energy projects in which gender issues are well addressed, such as the Barefoot College project (initiative from India for Mature women), in which Fijian grandmothers are trained on assembly and maintenance of renewable energy systems to install in their villages; and Grameen Shakti project, in which young women are trained as solar engineers.

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



Communities in Fiji learn of climate change risks from PACC



Student from Vashist Muni (photo: PACC Fiji)

Communities in two districts in Fiji are beginning to include climate change risks in their development plans, thanks to efforts by the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) Fiji project team and partners. Known as 'climate change mainstreaming', this is one of the key objectives of the PACC project and has been a focus for the Fiji team over recent months.

“We visited 10 schools and 8 communities during March and April, to raise awareness of climate change”

Project coordinator Iliapi Tuwai

Working with the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture, the PACC team reached more than 3,300 students and 150 teachers in the school visits and 168 community members through the community meetings.

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

PACC trials climate resilient root-crops in the Solomon Islands

Senior government officials from the Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock (MAL) heard positive news from the Solomon Islands PACC demonstration trials, delivered to them personally by farmer Mr. Chris Babasi.

“Most of the field crops and tree crops have performed well even though the soil needs improvement”

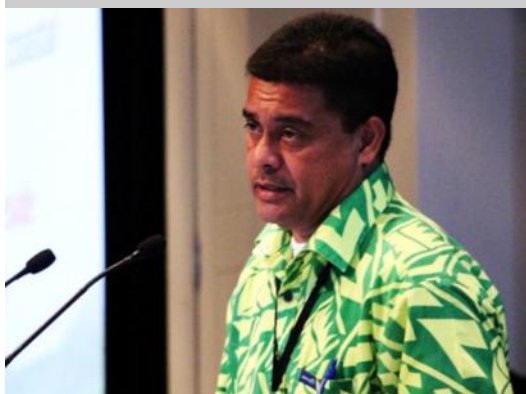
Mr Babasi, farmer, Solomon Islands

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



Taro crop (photo: PACC Solomon Islands)

Kosrae Project 'a shining example of climate change adaptation measures'



Mr. Simpson Abraham

Last year Simpson Abraham, who is running the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) pilot project in Kosrae, spoke at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties in Qatar. Only five countries were invited to present on their adaptation projects.

The project he has been talking about is the Tafensak road project. In a presentation given by SPREP's Director General, David Sheppard also praised the project and called it an excellent example of "climate change proofing of infrastructure".

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

For more information, contact Taito Nakalevu, PACC Regional Project Manager: taiton@sprep.com

The PACC Project consists of 14 member countries; it is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). It is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Australian Agency for International Development with support from United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Climate Change Capacity Development (C3D+) Programme.



Climate Outlook

Dry months ahead for Kiribati

Neutral El Niño/La Niña conditions are expected to continue over the next few months, which means near normal rainfall is expected for most Pacific Islands.

However, the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) is further north than its usual position. This means that there has been less rain than usual just to the north of the equator, particularly around Kiribati, and this could continue for the coming months.

For more information, contact your local meteorological service, or see the Island Climate Update at www.niwa.co.nz/climate/icu



Tarawa atoll, Kiribati (photo: Carlo Iacovino)

Events in August 2013

Event	Location	Date
1st Meeting of the Roadmap Technical Workshop Group	Suva, Fiji	5 August
Two Samoas Reef Resilience Workshop for Marine Managed Areas	Paga Pago, American Samoa	5-8 August
Strengthening SOPs for Tsunami Warning and the use of the ICG/PTWS PTWC New Enhanced Tsunami Products	Wellington, New Zealand	12-16 August
PIGGAREP MPR Meeting	Nadi, Fiji	12-16 August
PACC MPR Meeting	Nadi, Fiji	12-17 August