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In This Issue:

- 1 PACRES holds third Steering Committee
- 2 Resilience Qualifications Accredited
- 3 PACRES holds National Stakeholders Workshop
- 3 Focus needed on communities
- 4 Leadership and Governance Training a Success
- 5 Countries share lessons learnt and challenges
- 5 Vanuatu's hope for climate change adaptation and resilience building
- 6 USP Pre-COP Training a Success
- 7 Mapping tool to strengthen Tuvalu's Private Sector
- 7 Samisoni M Tupou shares COP27 experience
- 8 Sub-regional Climate Finance Workshop
- 9 Vanuatu applauds PACRES joint mission
- 9 EU encourages continuation of good work
- 10 Samoa's 3-million-tree-planting campaign begins in Savaii
- 11 Pacific emerging creatives award recognized
- 11 Pacific countries embrace new EbA tool
- 12 PACRES COP27 Side-Events a success
- 13 SPREP winners of the Vision Pasifika Media award 2022

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Newsletter



PACRES holds third Steering Committee Meeting in Fiji

The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) project held its Project Steering Committee Meeting in Nadi, Fiji, from 30 September to 01 October 2022.

The three-day meeting at the Novotel Hotel was also used to trial the Project's online Ecosystem-based Adaptation tool. The EbA decision support tool uses 'light' technology suited to the needs of Pacific Island planners at the national, subnational, and community levels.

Funded by European Union Intra-ACP GCCA+, the Project Steering Committee Meeting I reviewed PACRES progress from 2021 to 2022 and discuss adjustments to scheduled activities for next year. The meeting will also give PACRES country representatives and partners an opportunity to provide input on progress and proposed adjustments.

PACRES aims to improve regional, national adaptation and mitigation solutions to climate change concerns faced in 15 Pacific ACP countries.

SPREP's Director General, Mr Sefanaia Nawadra said the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted everyone but the opportunity to have the third PACRES Steering Committee meeting face to face is a chance to look towards what has been achieved during this challenging time.

"We are excited by the great progress to build climate change resilience capacity in the region," Mr Nawadra said. "SPREP continues to push forward the work to scale up-adaptation pilots in Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu with on-the-ground grassroots activities with our island communities.

"Our member countries' contributions to regional coordination in climate change and disaster resilience through the multi-stakeholder Pacific Resilience Partnership for the effective implementation of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) is another achievement."

The Steering Committee Meeting took place after the successful Audit report for Years 1 and 2 was acknowledged by the European Union as a remarkable achievement against the COVID-19 odds.

Link to story:

<https://www.sprep.org/news/pacres-holds-its-national-stakeholders-workshop-in-solomon-islands>

<https://www.pacificclimatechange.net/news/pacres-holds-third-steering-committee-meeting-fiji>

Resilience Qualifications Developed and Accredited for the Pacific



Climate Change continues to be a pressing issue in the world and its effects causes a strain on the economic, environmental, cultural, political, and daily livelihoods of people. The continuing effects of global warming and intensifying aftermath of natural disasters has forced Pacific Islanders to suffer the most repercussions and people are seen displaced from their homes, have their food and water sources destroyed, have their livelihoods disrupted and left families in complete destitute.

There is a growing need for the presence of resilient professionals in the Pacific region to tackle the needs to mitigate and adapt to climate change. This requirement is not only for policymakers but more importantly for those in grassroot levels as they are the most vulnerable and face the most challenges when they encounter an unforeseen natural hazard. People in villages and communities need to be equipped with knowledge to ensure they are self-reliant and sustainable to the changing weather conditions.

SPC is aware that Pacific Islanders have the potential to mitigate and adapt to climate change with the use of their traditional knowledge. However, the resilience qualifications come with opportunities that would bring perspective and cause a shift in the paradigm of education by contextualising the "know-hows" and address the immediate needs of Pacific Islanders to better understand the challenges and analyse ways to be better prepared for what is to come. This is essential so that those with genuine interests to be agents of change in their communities can pursue a career in resilience work.

To address this education gap, a new benchmark for Resilience education was achieved in April and June, this year when the regionally accredited Diploma in Resilience Levels 5 and 6 was developed and the recent Certificates in Resilience, levels 1 to 4 were reviewed by the Pacific Community (SPC), through the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) project.

The purpose of these qualifications is to use the formal vocational education sector to facilitate national and regional capacity in resilience. In particular, the qualifications look to raise the level of awareness of resilience and develop technical skills and knowledge to accurately monitor and assess impacts of climate change and natural hazards. In doing so, these qualifications contribute to developing a Pacific region whose people are educated and are capable to manage their resources sustainably.

The two courses are designed to meet the needs of the region, and these were endorsed through close consultations with the experts in resilience arena which includes regional experts, representatives from the education and industry sectors and related practitioners in resilience.

Link to story:

<https://www.spc.int/updates/blog/blog/2022/11/bridging-the-education-gap-with-resilience-qualifications>

PACRES Holds its National Stakeholders Workshop in Solomon Islands



A workshop to validate and update the Honiara Botanic Gardens and Honiara CBD Greening and Landscape Master Plan, as well as to conduct project site visits and courtesy visits to Honiara stakeholders, including line ministries, was hosted by the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) Project.

The one-day workshop in Honiara, Solomon Islands was held on Thursday 28 July 2022 and attended by national stakeholders, the private sector and business partners.

SPREP PACRES Acting Project Manager, Mr Semi Qamese, highlighted the importance of the workshop.

“We must be smart and strategic in our investments, ensuring that we meet your national priorities while also allowing for the expansion of other project works,” Mr Qamese said. “We also tried to be flexible in our approach, incorporating some recommendations from the previous Pacific Ecosystems-based Adaptation to Climate Change (PEBACC) project into the PACRES scaling up work.” Project site results were also conducted followed by the workshop.



Link to story:

<https://www.sprep.org/news/pacres-holds-its-national-stakeholders-workshop-in-solomon-islands>

<https://www.pacificclimatechange.net/news/pacres-holds-its-national-stakeholders-workshop-solomon-islands>



Focus on needs of the community, PACRES Steering Committee Meeting urged

“The importance of engaging, understanding, and working hand-in-hand with the community has been identified as a critical component for the successful implementation of the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) project.

The point was echoed by the speakers during the opening session of the third PACRES Project Steering Committee at Novotel Hotel in Nadi, Fiji. The project, designed to improve regional, national adaptation and mitigation solutions to climate change concerns in 15 Pacific ACP countries, is being delivered jointly by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Pacific Community (SPC) and the University of the South Pacific (USP).

Link to story:

<https://www.sprep.org/news/focus-on-needs-of-the-community-pacres-steering-committee-meeting-urged>

<https://www.pacificclimatechange.net/news/focus-needs-he-community-pacres-steering-committee-meeting-urged>

Leadership and Governance Training, Barana Community, Solomon Islands



A Leadership and Governance training took place over two days on October 11th and 12th, 2022 at the Barana Resource Centre in the Solomon Islands' Barana Community Nature and Heritage Park.

Supported through the European Union funded PACRES Programme, the two-day training brought together a total of 17 participants. The Barana Community Heritage Park Management Committee (BCNHP), Barana tribal chiefs, religious leaders, women, youth, and school leaders were among participants who attended the training.

The objectives of the training are to enhance the leadership and governance capacity of the Barana Community Leaders and enable these community change agents to mainstream Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management into their local community development plans.

Mr. Eddie Huitarau, Coordinator for Ahetana Water Conservation and President of the Solomon Islands Rangers Association, led the training.

"Good governance involves stewardship," said Mr. Huitarau, the training facilitator, "that is, being able to manage the affairs of all community members and providing them with

opportunities to effectively exercise their rights. Governance entails more than just structures, processes, and power; it also entails being fair in dispute resolution and managing community resources effectively," she added.

During the training, participants engaged in group discussions and practical exercises to demonstrate what good leadership, inclusivity and governance qualities should look like in their community.

The participants also realized their abilities and responsibilities as a leader, change agent and committee member. The majority of the current BCNHP executive committee members unpacked several difficult experiences they have encountered while organizing meetings to develop and implement community development plans.

Link to story:

<https://www.usp.ac.fj/pace-sd/2022/10/13/leadership-and-governance-training-barana-community-solomon-islands/>

Countries take centre stage, share lessons and challenges



Countries benefitting from a project designed to improve regional and national adaptation and mitigation solutions to climate change took center stage on the second day of the European Union Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) Project Steering Committee Meeting.

Country representatives and Research and Community Officers (RCO) who are driving the scaling up of pilot adaptation projects in Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, and Vanuatu shared their experiences on what has worked and what can be done better, as they work to combat the climate crisis.



Link to story:

<https://www.sprep.org/news/countries-take-center-stage-share-lessons-and-challenges>

<https://www.pacificclimatechange.net/news/countries-take-center-stage-share-lessons-and-challenges>



Chairman shares Vanuatu's hope for climate change adaptation and resilience building project

Vanuatu has been voted to Chair the third PACRES Project Steering Committee, and the man occupying the seat, Mr Mike Sam Waiwai, the Director of the Department of Climate Change, has reiterated the urgent need to scale up action to address the impact of climate change.

During the opening session at the Novotel Hotel in Nadi Fiji, Samoa moved the motion for Vanuatu to chair, which was seconded by Fiji. Mr Waiwai said he was honoured to facilitate what he believes is a crucial meeting for the Pacific region.

“Having a good relationship with the community and the chiefs is the secret to project sustainability. Working with the communities now, you can see the impact the PACRES project has made.”

The sustainability, implementation, and on-the-ground activities of the project depend on the partnership with PACRES and its stakeholders, which is a crucial element for PACRES in the region.”

Link to story:

<https://www.sprep.org/news/chairman-shares-vanuatus-hope-for-climate-change-adaptation-and-resilience-building-project>

<https://www.pacificclimatechange.net/news/chairman-shares-vanuatus-hope-for-climate-change-adaptation-and-resilience-building-project>

USP Pre-COP Training a Success



The University of the South Pacific hosted a three-day Pre-COP training as part of the EU-funded intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) programme to assist in capacity building and preparing USP students for COP27 Negotiations in Egypt.

A total of 24 students attended the three-day training, which was a hybrid event conducted face-to-face and via Zoom.

While the event was primarily aimed at students, representatives from Pacific-SIDS' governments, Civil Society Organizations, and the Pacific Resilience Partnership Youth Hub were invited to share their COP experiences with the selected students.

Linda Vaike, USP PACRES Acting Project Team Leader, stated "The training is important because it helps build the capacity of students from across the region in climate change negotiations and the various thematic areas that they will be dealing with at the highest level of climate change negotiations.

"The students have the opportunity to hear from seasoned negotiators who shared their experiences around COP processes as well as key insights into what the students can expect at COP27," she added.

The USP EU PACRES programme works with P-ACP governments and experts from the One CROP team to support

young student negotiators in attending UNFCCC Conference of Parties events.



Link to story:

<https://www.usp.ac.fj/pace-sd/2022/10/14/pre-cop-training-a-success/>

Mapping of Tuvalu's Private Sector Resilience Building Initiatives and to help strengthen Climate Change Private Sector Engagement



The private sector mapping for Tuvalu commenced on 19 September for forty working days with the guidance of Tuvalu National Private Sector Organisation (TNPSO), Climate Change Division, GCF's National Designated Authority (NDA), relevant government agencies and the PIFS PACRES team to consolidate key information and data sources from the private sector.

This is to help inform more effective policy and decision-making relating to private sector engagement including recommendations to strengthen private sector engagement in all national climate change and disaster related initiatives.

Although the consultation was largely focused on Funafuti, the survey was promoted to eight outer islands of Tuvalu online and with the Kaupule assistance on three targeted outer islands. A total of 59 business surveys were collected from either written, face-to-face or online approaches.

The mapping exercise provided an opportunity to collect some baseline information that can assist TNPSO and the government with strategic planning and resourcing activities related to resilient development for the private sector. As part of the mapping, a SWOT analysis was carried out on the private sector including a study of options for improved engagement between the public and private sectors.

Link to story:

<https://www.pacificclimatechange.net/news/mapping-tuvalu-private-sector-resilience-building-initiatives-and-strengthen-public-private>



COP27 – Samisoni Mumui Tupou – Tonga

The USP EU PACRES program funded 4 USP students from Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Tuvalu to attend the UN #COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, earlier last month.

Samisoni Mumui Tupou from Tonga was one of the 4 students. He expressed gratitude to the USP EU-funded project for allowing him to attend COP27 as a Pacific young leader.

"I'd like to thank the USP EU PACRES for their support, as well as the Government of Tonga for inviting me to join their delegation to the COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt."

"I am hoping that this opportunity will be beneficial in terms of knowledge and skills on climate change negotiations as well as the latest developments relating to the Paris Agreement, which provides guides Tonga's efforts to address climate change in order to meet its obligations and ambitions on an international scale," he added.

The 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt from 6-18 November 2022.

Link to story:

<https://www.usp.ac.fj/pace-sd/2022/10/11/road-to-cop27/>

Polynesia Sub-regional Private Sector Climate Finance Workshop



The second Polynesia Sub-regional Private Sector Workshop on enhancing private sector contribution to building resilience through improving access to climate finance and strengthened public-private partnership was held at Lava Hotel in Apia on 27-29 September. The workshop brought together representatives from the Government and the private sector in Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tonga, and Tuvalu including regional and development partners and climate financing institutions who discussed opportunities around climate financing.

During the workshop, participants recognised that one of the key challenges faced by micro, small to medium enterprises in the region is access to climate finance.

The workshop provided an opportunity for stakeholders to better understand the specific needs of the private sector and to discuss the challenges of accessing climate finance including practical financing and support options targeted for the Pacific private sector.

This is a regional initiative by the Forum Secretariat and supported by partners to improve engagement of the private sector with the government and key stakeholders in climate

finance. The three-day workshop ended with a tree planting programme organised by the Climate Change Division of the Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) at the Vailima Reserve and Botanical Garden.

The workshop was made possible through the Pacific Islands Forum in collaboration with Samoa's Ministry of Finance, Samoa Chamber of Commerce, and Industry and MNRE, with funding support from the Intra African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) Project.

Link to story:

www.forumsec.org/2022/10/19/release-samoa-climate-financing-workshop-eyes-private-sector-opportunities/

Vanuatu applauds success of PACRES joint mission



A joint mission by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) took place from team to meet with key stakeholders, community representatives and change agents for the PACRES project in Vanuatu, has been hailed a success.

The purpose of the joint mission was to meet with key stakeholders. Reflecting collaboration that truly embodies the ideals of South-South cooperation, the mission found that the majority of the Implementation and activities across the project's various components are on track as planned, with an overwhelmingly positive feedback from key stakeholders.

Mr Mike Waiwai, Director of the Climate Change Department in Vanuatu, welcomed the team.

"For me, the PACRES project has gone extremely well, but the only stumbling block has been COVID-19, which has caused some activities to be delayed," he said.



Link to story:

<https://www.sprep.org/news/vanuatu-applauds-success-of-pacres-joint-mission>

<https://www.pacificclimatechange.net/news/vanuatu-applauds-success-pacres-joint-mission>



European Union encourages continuation of good work to combat climate change

The European Union (EU) has acknowledged the positive audit report for the Intra ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) Project.

The acknowledgement was offered by the EU's Programme Manager for PACRES, Mr Gabor Sasvari, during the third PACRES Project Steering Committee at Novotel Hotel in Nadi, Fiji, in the presence of country representatives and partners to discuss the progress and the best way forward.

The audit report for Years 1 and 2 found that out of a sampled amount of EUR 218.000,62, no financial findings were identified. In light of the challenges encountered due to COVID-19 where the engagement with Pacific members was conducted remotely using multiple agencies based in the various countries in the region, this is a remarkable achievement, the EU noted.

Link to story:

<https://www.sprep.org/news/european-union-encourages-continuation-of-good-work-to-combat-climate-change>

<https://www.pacificclimatechange.net/news/european-union-encourages-continuation-good-work-combat-climate-change>

Samoa's 3-million-tree-planting campaign begins in Savaii, 2022-2028



Students and teachers from Itu-o-Tane College and Laumoli Primary School joined Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) Forestry Division, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Small Grants Programme (SGP), and the University of the South Pacific (USP) Samoa Campus Discipline of Agriculture and Food Technology to kick off Samoa's 3 Million Tree Planting Campaign 2022-2028.

More than 70 participants from Laumoli Primary School and Itu-o-Tane College kicked off Samoa's 3 Million Tree Planting Campaign 2022-2028 with a tree-planting event hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) Forestry Division at Vaipouli grounds. The event was funded by the EU PACRES Project implemented through USP. As part of the event, school children and teachers were given an overview of the usefulness of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) by MNRE Forestry Division. Emphasis was placed on ensuring the planting of trees and reforestation as a cost-effective and environmentally sound means of protection from the impacts of climate change and disasters especially soil erosion within the extensive wetlands and 2 major catchment areas within the district, as well as Muliolo Stream which runs parallel to Vaipouli grounds.

In giving thanks to PACRES and MNRE for the planting tools, Principal of Itu-o-Tane College, speaking on behalf of both schools in attendance conveyed "thanks from the bottom of our hearts for the planting tools gifts", which were "timely given the college teaches Agriculture-Science" and "absence of such gifts from the Ministry of Education", and that the "investment today in re-planting will be continued as Primary

School students will eventually be educated at the College".

The tree-planting ceremony marked the beginning of the 3 Million Tree Campaign 2022-2028, which builds on Samoa's achievement of the 2 Million Tree Campaign target in 2021.



Link to story:

<https://www.usp.ac.fj/pace-sd/2022/07/05/samoas-3-million-tree-planting-campaign-2022-2028-starts-in-savaii/>

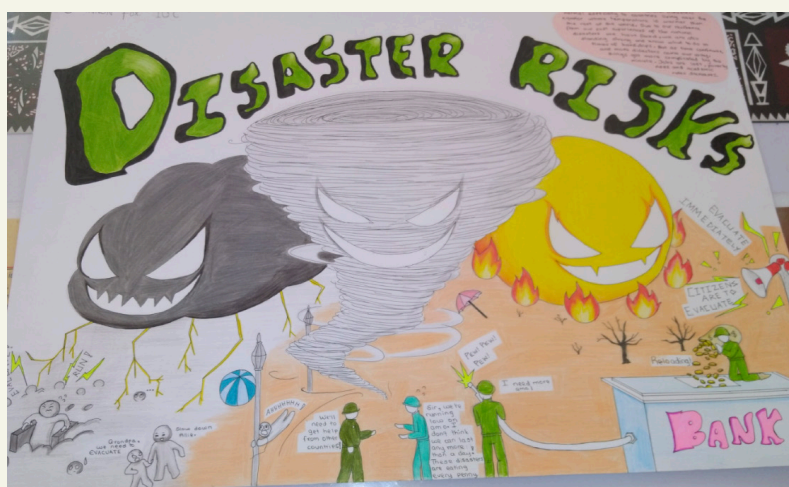
Pacific emerging creatives recognized through award ceremony



Aakarsheit Nath, Winner of the 6-10 years old Category

A total of 28 emerging youth artists, poets, and filmmakers from across the Blue Pacific have been recognised in creative competition documenting key messages and raising awareness on disaster risk financing (DRF).

Under the theme “Financial protection for a resilient future - Pacific Youth Perspective”, the youth-led competition attracted more than 160 entries for the videos, poems, essay and art categories. The competition provided a space for Pacific youth to amplify their perspective on disaster risk financing. These activities acknowledge the critical contributions that Pacific youth play in helping build a more resilient Pacific to climate change and disasters.



Shannon Fox, Winner of the 11-15 years old Category

Link to story:

<https://www.resilientpacific.org/en/news/pacific-emerging-creatives-recognized-through-award-ceremony>



Pacific countries embrace new ecosystem-based adaptation tool

The Pacific delegates at the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) Project Steering Committee Meeting embraced the addition of EbA tool to combat climate change.

The members endorsed the tool following a comprehensive session on the last day of the meeting where they were introduced and had the opportunity to trial the PACRES online Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) tool, designed to provide decision support for planning eco-based adaptation initiatives in the Pacific. EbA is a strategy for adapting to climate change that harnesses nature-based solutions and ecosystem services.

The session brought the curtains down on the three-day meeting at the Novotel Hotel where partners and country representatives knuckled down to review the project's progress from 2021 to 2022 and discuss the next steps. A key part of those next steps will involve the EbA tool, which uses 'light' technology designed to suit the needs of Pacific Island planners at the national, subnational, and community levels. The delegates welcomed the tool.

Link to story:

<https://www.sprep.org/news/pacific-countries-embrace-new-ecosystem-based-adaptation-tool>

PACRES COP27 Side-Events a success



PACRES Project hosted four (4) Side-Events at COP27 in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt:

1. **Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation Planning Tool:**

Online Planning Tool for effective and efficient Resilience Building in Pacific Small Island Developing States. Direct link to tool: <https://ebatool.pacificclimatechange.net/>

In addition to the launch of the EbA tool, PACRES in collaboration with the Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment on Marine Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change in Samoa (MEBACC) also launched an implementation video taken place in Samoa: <https://www.pacificclimatechange.net/node/25728>

2. **Partnering in Knowledge Brokerage:** Pacific SIDS Discourse on Strengthening Partnerships for Enhancing Resilience Building through Information and Knowledge Management and Knowledge Brokerage

Another video was launched at this side event. Visualisation of climate change impacts to Pacific Fisheries: <https://www.pacificclimatechange.net/node/25725>

3. **From Silo's to Synergy:** Inter-regional Climate Resilience Programming – EU-Intra ACP GCCA+ in Small Island Developing States

4. **Resilience Building in the Virtual Space:** Innovative Virtual Approaches to enhancing Resilience Planning – Learning from the World's most 'At Risk' Countries

Our ocean of islands is geographically isolated within the world's largest ocean, coupled with their limited access to climate and risk financing, and a small human resource base of local resilience expertise and practitioners, PICS capabilities to effectively undertake requisite measures to adapt, reduce, and mitigate the impacts of climate change and disasters are continuously constrained. Therefore, the common theme across PACRES events was 'resilience building within a small island context and perspective' with a particular focus on innovative measures undertaken by PSIDS for building resilience.

All four side events brought in PACRES partners and experts from regional organizations and outside of the region to be panelists. Sharing knowledge, expressing profound groundwork done in the Pacific as well as reflecting on the lessons learned from the collective efforts and experiences through project focused activities. These were heard by individuals and groups from all walks of life and discussed in corridors by those who have attended these 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of the Parties (COP27) side events.

SPREP congratulates winners of 2022 Vision Pasifika Media Award



The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) congratulates the winners of the 2022 Vision Pasifika Media Award.

Launched with financial support from Aotearoa New Zealand, and facilitated by a partnership between SPREP, Pacific Islands News Association (PINA), Internews Earth Journalism Network and the Pacific Environment Journalists Network - the 2022 Vision Pasifika Media Award commemorates the role of Pacific media in amplifying the Pacific voice on climate change.

The Award received nominations from Pacific media workers on published, or broadcast stories which highlighted the region's climate change challenges and, or the ways Pacific people have addressed these, for survival.

There were five categories namely Television News, Radio production, Online content, Print media and Tertiary-level journalism students. The competition was judged by an independent panel of judges, including media specialists and environmental experts. Points were scored on journalism skill, ability to engage audience, relevance, accuracy, factualness, and proficiency in the medium.

The winners are:

TELEVISION: Fabian Randerath, of the Fiji Broadcasting Corporation, in Fiji.

ONLINE: Jeremy Gwao, a Freelance Journalist in the Solomon Islands.

PRINT: Moffat Mamu, of the Solomon Star Newspaper in the Solomon Islands.

TERTIARY LEVEL JOURNALISM: Sera Tikotikoivatu-Seleti, a student journalist at the University of the South Pacific (USP) writing for the Wansolwara.

Link to story:

<https://www.sprep.org/news/sprep-congratulates-winners-of-2022-vision-pasifika-media-award>

<https://www.pacificclimatechange.net/news/sprep-congratulates-winners-2022-vision-pasifika-media-award>