

The Third International Conference on  
Small Island Developing States (SIDS 2014)

# SIDE EVENT

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE DATA AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2014

11am - 12.30pm

Conference room CR3

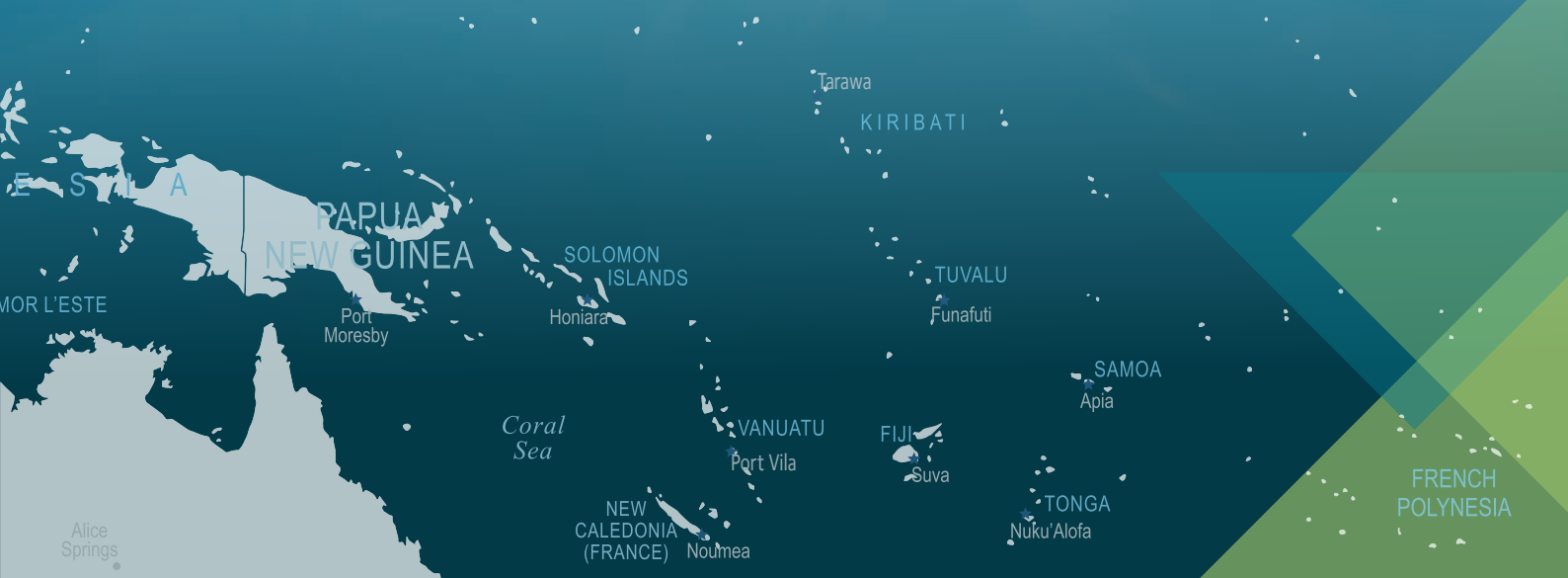
Faleata Sports Complex

Apia, Samoa



## CLIMATE CHANGE DATA AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

MANAGE - CONNECT - DISCOVER - REUSE



# INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE DATA AND INFORMATION

Over the past decade, there has been considerable investment in the development of knowledge around how a changing climate will impact on both our human and environmental systems. Typically this investment has focused on trying to minimise the adverse impact of climate change by either:

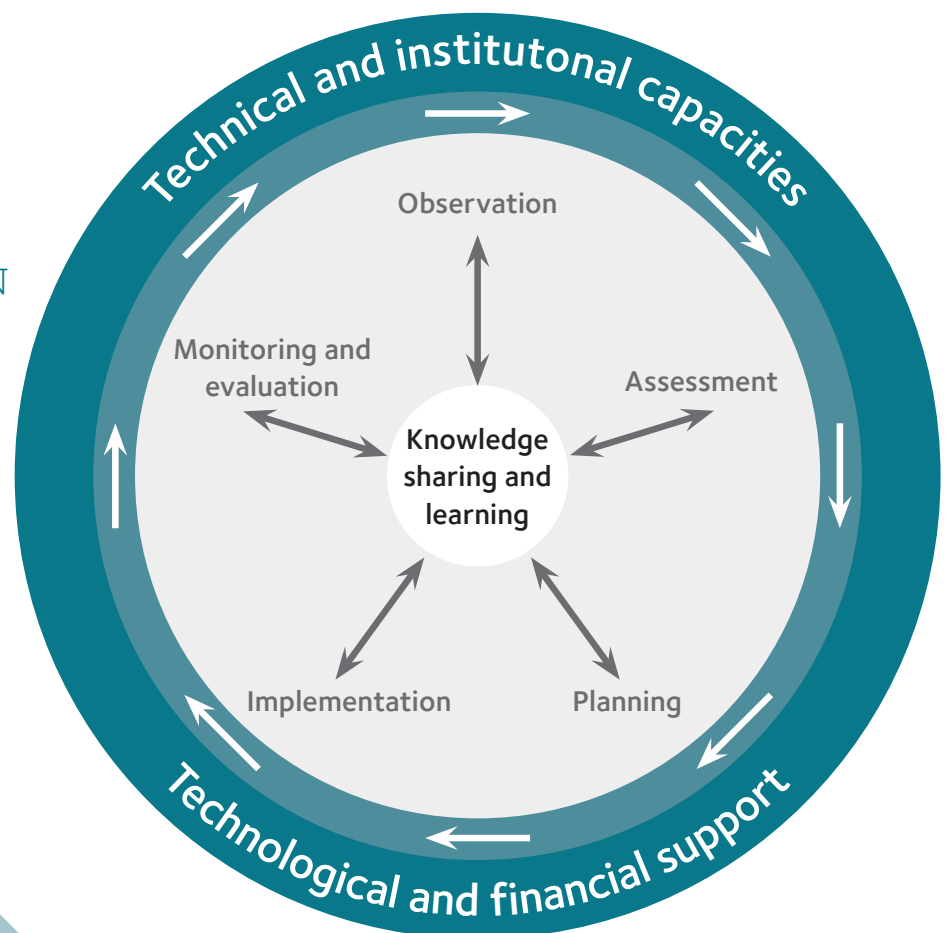
- i. Altering our current systems in order to reduce our exposure to the potential adverse impacts of climate change.
- ii. Building the resilience of our current systems to the potential adverse impacts of climate change.

The importance of climate change data and information in adaptation and resilience planning is well documented, and seen as a critical component for undertaking effective research, decision-making and responses. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) conceptualizes the significance of climate change knowledge in adaptation and resilience planning, by placing “knowledge sharing and learning” at the center of their adaptation element framework (Figure 1).

In its simplest interpretation, this UNFCCC framework conveys that the management and maintenance of both new and existing climate change data and information is critical to all aspects of the adaptation and resilience planning process, these being:

- ▶ **Observational** data and information on climatic and non-climatic variables;
- ▶ **Assessment** of climate impacts and vulnerability;
- ▶ **Planning** for climate change via the development of National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs);
- ▶ **Implementation** of NAPAs and other adaptation and resilience plans;
- ▶ **Monitoring** and evaluation of adaptation actions.

FIGURE 1:  
UNFCCC ADAPTATION  
ELEMENTS



The effective management of climate change data and information requires that the following principles be upheld:

1. **Secure and Sustainable Storage:** Providing stakeholders with the capability to store data and information on stable infrastructure that will be available over the long-term.
2. **Connectivity:** Improving the capability of stakeholders to discover data and information through greater connectivity among information portals.
3. **Discoverability:** Ensuring that connected data and information is clearly described with standard metadata, making it more widely discoverable to stakeholders.
4. **Reusability:** Ensuring that data and data produced from tools are in a format and system that makes it both reusable and re-discoverable.

Unfortunately, the ability for researchers, practitioners and decision-makers to securely store, discover, access and utilise climate change data and information is often still limited due to the above principles not being properly addressed in knowledge management strategies.

Moving forward, the emerging field of climate change data and information management requires a strong commitment at the national, regional and international levels in order to move away from

more traditionally silo and limiting knowledge management practices, towards more collaborative and coordinated approaches that promote the above data and information management principles. Where possible government agencies and non government organisations (NGOs) should look at how their current policies, practices, technology, financial commitments and human resource capacity can better support the achievement of the abovementioned data and information management principles.

It is also clear that in some cases the achievement of adaptation and resilience plans will require a high level shift in thinking about how we value and share our data and information with others. In this regard, it is recommended that at the higher level, climate change data and information management initiatives should strive to:

- i. View climate change data and information as an asset and manage it accordingly
- ii. Participate in as many data and information sharing activities as possible, in order to maximise the content discovery.

The Pacific in an attempt to coordinate climate change data and information at a regional level has formed a partnership with various regional and national organisations to work toward this. The side event will exhibit the initiatives that are in place to achieve this.

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In keeping with the theme of SIDS 2014 of Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States Through Genuine and Durable Partnerships, the dialogue is aimed at highlighting the effective management of climate change data and information which is critical for supporting decision-makers, researchers and practitioners to identify the data and information they require for climate change adaptation and resilience planning.

TIME	PRESENTATION	PRESENTERS
11:00 - 11:10am	Welcome	Government of Vanuatu
11:10 - 11:20am	<b>Setting the Scene –</b> Introducing the topic of climate change data and information management and how this is being addressed in the Pacific	Co-facilitators: <b>Dr Netatua Pelesikoti</b> , Director, Climate Change, SPREP; <b>Professor Brendan Mackey</b> , Director, Griffith Climate Change Response Program
11:20 - 11:30am	An overview of the Pacific Climate Change Portal (PCCP) and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) approach for regional climate change data and information management	<b>Ms. Makelesi Gonelevu</b> , Knowledge Management Officer, SPREP (Coordinator for the PCCP)
11:30 - 11:40am	<b>Climate Change Portal – Vanuatu</b> An overview of current climate change data and information management in Vanuatu - Vanuatu Meteorology & Geo-hazards Department	<b>Rebecca Iaken</b> , Monitoring & Evaluation Officer; <b>Ms Florence Iautu</b> , Communication and Outreach Officer
11:40 - 11:50am	<b>Climate Change Portal – Fiji</b> An overview of current climate change data and information management in Fiji - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.	<b>Dr Mahendra Kumar</b> , Director, Climate Change Division, MFAIC; <b>Talei Kocovanua</b> , GIS Specialist, MFAIC
11:50am - 12:00noon	<b>Climate Change Portal – Tonga</b> An overview of current climate change data and information management in Tonga - Environment, Climate Change & Natural Resources	<b>Mr Paula Ma'u</b> , CEO, Ministry of Environment & Climate Change; <b>Mr Sione Fulivai</b> , Senior Climate Finance Analyst
12:00noon - 12:25pm	Panel Discussion	
12:25 - 12:30pm	Concluding comments	Co-facilitators: <b>Dr Netatua Pelesikoti</b> <b>Professor Brendan Mackey</b>

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