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UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
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SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

EDITORIAL

Greetings from SPREP,

As we prepare for the momentous occasion of Fiji's Presidency of the 23rd Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 23), the region is gearing up to bring a greater Pacific perspective to the international level. Several high level meetings in August and September have highlighted the need for Pacific concerns to be given greater prominence, starting with the August Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology. That meeting highlighted the need for enhanced climate services, improved climate and oceans observing systems, and greater support for climate change science in the region. The Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting recognised Fiji's five key priorities for the COP 23 presidency, namely: (i) facilitative dialogue; (ii) implementation guidelines and the Paris Agreement Rule Book; (iii) Gender, local communities and indigenous peoples platform; (iv) Adaptation and loss and damage; (v) Oceans pathway through 2020 that strengthens the ocean-climate change nexus.

The 28th SPREP Meeting also recognised the need for enhanced support to the Pacific Island Countries delegations, which will be undertaken by the CROP+ team approach coordinated by SPREP.

COP 23 will be a crucial event in many ways. The process by which the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue, now renamed the Talanoa Dialogue, will set the stage for future such events that are aimed at ramping up ambition of mitigation efforts, support for adaptation and climate change finance. The Talanoa approach adopted by Fiji is time proven in the Pacific, and there are great expectations that it should also work at the international level. It is important that ambition in mitigation targets is prioritised, as some of the latest science indicates a very narrow time frame to turn the corner on emissions levels needed to reach the 1.5 degrees target.

There is therefore much work ahead for the region in supporting Fiji with this major responsibility and undertaking as COP 23 Presidency, and we wish them every success. SPREP and the CROP+ team will provide as much assistance as we can.

Climate change matters.

Our Pacific islands matter.

Photo: PacNews

Climate change crisis can no longer be ignored: Incoming COP23 President

NADI, 17 OCTOBER 2017 (DEPTFO NEWS) --- Fijian Prime Minister and incoming COP23 President Voreqe Bainimarama this morning opened the Pre-COP meeting in Denarau, Nadi reminding Heads of states, Ministers and delegates of the impacts caused by climate change.

PM Bainimarama stressed that climate change crisis can no longer be ignored as it is happening around the world whether it is fires in California, Portugal and Spain or flooding in Nigeria, India and Bangladesh.

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Photo: PacNews

Small Island States affected the worst by Climate Change

NADI, 17 OCTOBER 2017 (FBC NEWS)--- Small Island States are among the worst affected in a climate peril. This was highlighted by the UN Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed at the Pre COP in Nadi.

Mohammed said that their vulnerabilities to recurrent and more frequent and more extreme weather events continue to mount. She says extreme weather events show in graphic detail the risks people face if ambition, action and commitment are not raised to meet the challenges of climate change.

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Photo: SPREP

Pacific leads the way: integrating disaster risk management and climate change

The Pacific island region is first in the world to integrate climate change and disaster risk management to strengthen Pacific resilience. Already having made world history in being the first, the Pacific islands are strengthening their placing this week, holding the second regional meeting that brings the climate change and disaster risk management communities together.

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Photo: SPREP

Pathways to a Resilient Pacific: The Pacific Climate Change Roundtable Begins!

The Pacific Climate Change Roundtable opened in Suva, Fiji today, bringing together over 100 participants from across the Pacific to strengthen regional coordination. Since 2008, the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable has been coordinated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in partnership with the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific, Pacific island governments, development partners and donors.

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Photo: World Bank

Photo: SPREP

Photo: Fiji First

Pre COP23: Need for blended climate finance

NADI,17 OCTOBER 2017 (FIJI TIMES/DEPTFO NEWS)--- There is a challenge to develop insurance products for the Pacific region which are climate responsive but which are still profitable enough for private sector to take ownership.

This was one of the strong messages which came out of a panel discussion on climate finance and risk management Monday at the PreCOP23 meetings in Nadi.

On the panel was the Minister for Economy and responsible for Climate Change, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Howard Bamsey (CEO Green Climate Fund), Katerina Kimmorley (Clean Energy Finance Corporation) and Dipak Dasgupta a founding board member of the Green Climate Fund.

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Providing the right information on accessing climate finance in the Pacific

An online tool has been developed to help Pacific islanders navigate climate finance processes and filter information on climate funds and accredited agencies relevant to the Pacific. Developed as part of the Pacific Climate Information (iCLIM) project coordinated in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), it supports the regional management of climate change information in the Pacific.

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Fiji partner with Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation to develop innovative renewable energy solutions for rural communities

NADI, 17 OCTOBER 2017 (DEPTFO NEWS) --- Inspired by Fiji's Presidency of COP23, the Fijian Government, with the support of the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation (LDF), will bring renewable energy to rural communities around the country.

Together with Sunergise (Fiji) Limited, the Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area Network (FLMMA) and the Fiji Electricity Authority (FEA), the new Fiji Rural Electrification Fund will bring solar power to communities with no electricity or that rely on pollution-emitting diesel generators.

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Photo: CSIRO

Local ocean temperatures play role in protecting corals

A paper published in Nature Climate Change today has revealed the importance of regional differences in sea surface temperature variability in determining the global distribution of coral bleaching risk.

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Climate Science Centre Research Scientist and the paper's lead author Dr Clothilde Langlais said the question is no longer if coral bleaching will occur, but how often and which areas might be a temporary safe haven for corals.

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Photo: SPREP

Sector Vanuatu Climate Outlook Forum targets climate information tailored for Health

The Second Vanuatu Climate Outlook Forum targets discussions on how the climate services information can make a way forward for improvement of provision use and applied the tailoring the climate information for the Health Sector

This meeting brought together national, regional and international experts relevant to climate services with a special focus on Health.

The NCOF – 2 is being co – organised and co supported by the Secretariat Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) with the financial support from the Government of Russia.

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Photo: Tauala Katea/Tuvalu Meteorological Services

Tuvalu launches early warning system (EWS)

With the introduction of Chatty Beetle and dedicated High Frequency radios network for a disaster-prone country like Tuvalu, communicating weather, climate and warning messages between the scattered islands of Tuvalu is now possible even if other communications fail. An Early Warning System network project was successfully supported under Tuvalu's National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA 2).

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Photo: Henry Taiki/WMO

The HimawariCast Project: Bringing the power of new satellite image information to Samoa

Samoa is now able to access the image data from the most recent generation of geostationary meteorological satellites. 15 September 2017 marked the official handing over of the HimwariCast equipment to the Government of Samoa through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.
The new generation of geostationary satellites started with the launch of Himawari8 on 7 October 2014 and is now operational at an altitude of 36,000 kilometers above the equator at 140.5 Degrees Longitude East, just north of Papua New Guinea.

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Photo: Siosinamele Lui/SPREP

Stakeholders join the Met Office to collect traditional knowledge

The Tongan Meteorology Department today joined with various stakeholders from the Community, Private Sector, other Government Agencies and Non-government agencies for a 2 day workshop on collecting and documenting weather and climate related traditional knowledge. The workshop is funded by the Government of Australia under the Climate and Ocean Support Program for the Pacific (COSPPAC) initiative and implemented by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, SPREP and the Tonga Meteorological Service.

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Photo: SPREP

ESCAP, WMO Enhance Disaster Resilience in Asia-Pacific

BANGKOK,18 OCTOBER 2017 (SDG IISD.ORG)--- In recent adaptation and loss and damage news, Asia-Pacific countries advanced work on disaster resilience in the region during the first UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Disaster Resilience Week, while a joint Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) – World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) workshop for the Pacific sought to strengthen observational networks on the region.

At the conclusion of the ESCAP Disaster Resilience Week, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 9-12 October 2017, Asia-Pacific countries endorsed a set of recommendations and initiatives to promote regional cooperation and support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on disaster risk reduction (DRR).

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2017 CLIMATE CHANGE DIVISION CALENDAR: NOVEMBER

PROJECTS/EVENTS	DETAILS	DATE	WHERE
Solomon Islands PICASO and SCOPIC training	Training Solomon NMS climate officers on PICASO and SCOPIC	1 - 2 Nov	Honiara, Solomon Islands
UNFCCC 23rd Conference of the Parties and pre-meetings	Attend in support of Pacific Island countries delegations and present at side events	1 - 17 Nov	Bonn, Germany
Solomon Islands Traditional Knowledge workshop	Training with Solomon Met Service on integrating Traditional Knowledge with Science	6 - 9 Nov	Honiara, Solomon Islands
Second Expert Group Meeting Strategy for Knowledge Hub on Early Warning System	SPREP participation to the development of the Pacific Strategy for Knowledge Hub on EWS.	8 - 9 Nov	Denpasar
Solomon Islands National Drought Workshop and Consultations	Finalise the draft of the Solomon Islands National Drought Policy	9 - 10 Nov	Honiara, Solomon Islands
November OCOF 122	Monthly OCOF teleconference	13 November	Online, SPREP
Work attachment with SPREP	Tonga Met Service IT Officer TK attachment with SPREP	13 - 15 November	SPREP
ASEANCOF-9	SPREP participation in the Ninth ASEAN Climate Outlook Forum	15 - 17 Novermber	Hanoi, Vietnam
PIMS Implementation Plan and UNESCAP meeting	The workshop with UNESCAP will discuss about the Training Workshop on Addressing Disaster Risks Specific to the Pacific and the PIMS/Roadmap Implementation Plan	14 - 17 November	SPREP
Vanuatu GCF Consultation	The consultation is to finalise all the outstanding documentations before the inception workshop early next year.	20 - 24 November	Port Vila, Vanuatu
Tuvalu National Drought Workshop and Consultations	Conduct national stakeholder consultations to draft the National Drought Policy for Tuvalu	27 Nov - 1 Dec	Funafuti, Tuvalu
Pacific iCLIM Consultations - Tuvalu	Conduct IKD consultations with CC/DRR stakeholders	27 Nov - 1 Dec	Funafuti, Tuvalu

To find out more about SPREP's Climate Change Division (CCD) please visit: www.sprep.org/Climate-Change/climate-change-about-us

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