



CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS

Issue 1 — May 2012

Kiribati © PHOTO - D. McFadzien/SPREP

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“The Pacific Environment—sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures”



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Director's Note



*Dr Netatua Pelesikoti,
SPREP Climate Change Division Director*

Talofa lava!

...and greetings to you all

This is the first volume of *CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS*, a monthly feature produced by the Climate Change Division (CCD) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

Climate Change Matters is a snapshot of climate change initiatives in the region that will be contributing to raising the profile of climate change issues and how we respond to its many challenges.

Climate Change Matters will share stories on the efforts of the region in adaptation and mitigation, including communication and capacity building initiatives of relevance. Relevant findings in climate change science and information (meteorology, oceans and land observations) will also be highlighted in each publication.

As this is our first issue, a summary of the Durban 17th Conference of Parties outcomes is provided with our April highlights and activities from the earlier months of this year. A calendar of events for the month of May is included.

Following the usual work planning at the beginning of the year, the CCD

in February and March became the sub-regional node for the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN); in April through collaboration with the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC), the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy was approved by the Council to be launched at the 2012 SPREP Meeting.

You will also find here stories from the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) and Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy (PIGGAREP) on how Pacific Island Countries and Territories are responding to the impacts of climate change through adaptation and mitigation.

We will be pleased to disseminate relevant highlights and achievements from national and local initiatives in our next issue. Feel free to contact us if you have stories of your own that you wish to share, or suggestions that may help us improve *Climate Change Matters*.

We hope to hear from you before we release the 2nd volume in June! Deadline for inclusion in June issue is 20th May, 2012. Tofa soifua.

About Us

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

- (1) Adaptation;
- (2) Mitigation; and
- (3) Policy and Science.

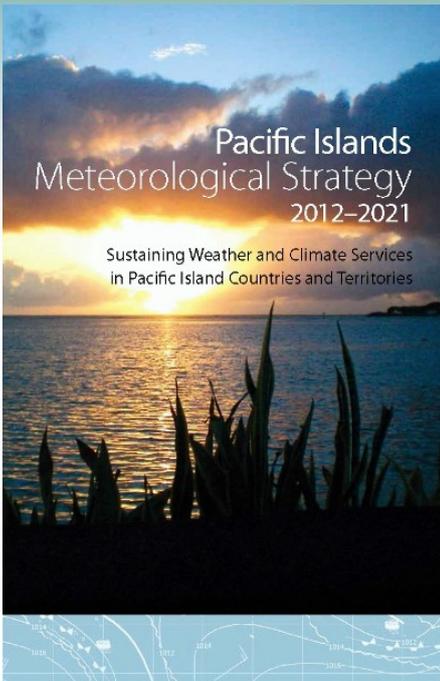
The work of the CCD is directed by the SPREP Strategic Plan 2011-2015 based on the climate change priorities of SPREP Members and consistent with the *Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006-2015* (PIFACC) and other relevant and approved policy drivers such as the Pacific Plan and 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; and contributing to global greenhouse gas reduction

For more information visit our website at <http://www.sprep.org/Climate-Change/climate-change-about-us>

Meteorological Strategy in place to strengthen weather and climate services



20th April 2012

The Pacific Meteorology Council has adopted the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy (PIMS) to ensure that National Meteorological Services (NMS) have the capacity to fulfil their responsibilities over the next decade.

The PIMS 2012-2021 provides a guiding framework for the development and support of national and regional weather and climate (meteorological) services.

It seeks to promote development by building capacity within NMS and ensuring support is coordinated and delivered effectively in partnership with international agencies, regional agencies, donors and technical

partners.

"As a Chair from an atoll country, the severe impacts of these and climate change provide more than enough motivation to ensure that our NMSs continue to grow in providing time critical and relevant data and information services to the public," stated Mr Reginald White, PMC Chair and Director of the Republic of Marshall Islands National Weather Service.

The PIMS will be officially launched at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme Annual Meeting to be held in Noumea, 4 – 6 September 2012.

[View full article](#)

For more information, contact Dr Netatua Pelesikoti at netatuap@sprep.org

USAID funds to help Kiribati build a resilient water resource sector



27th April 2012

A team of SPREP Climate Change Division were recently in Kiribati to introduce the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded project aiming to build resilience of communities to climate change focusing in the water resource sector in the outer islands.

Climate Change Adaptation Adviser Ms Diane McFadzien and Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project Manager Mr Taito Nakalevu met with the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development (MELAD),

Office of the President, Ministry of Public Works and Utilities to establish the institutional arrangements for the project implementation.

"Initial discussions on this project were welcomed by the Kiribati Government, and it has been agreed that the Ministry of Public Works and Utilities (MPWU) will be responsible for the direct implementation of this project in Kiribati, with input also from MELAD," said Ms McFadzien.

[View full article](#)

(L-R) Mr Taito Nakalevu of SPREP and Mr Eita Metaj, MPWU Secretary of Kiribati at the discussion of the MoU

For more information, contact Ms Diane McFadzien at dianem@sprep.org

Fiji Policy to strengthen PACC efforts

27th April 2012

The recently launched National Climate Change Policy for Fiji will play a major role in strengthening the adaptation efforts of the Government of Fiji and its people.

This work was also supported by the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) Project funded by the Global Environment Facility and the Australian Agency for International Development.

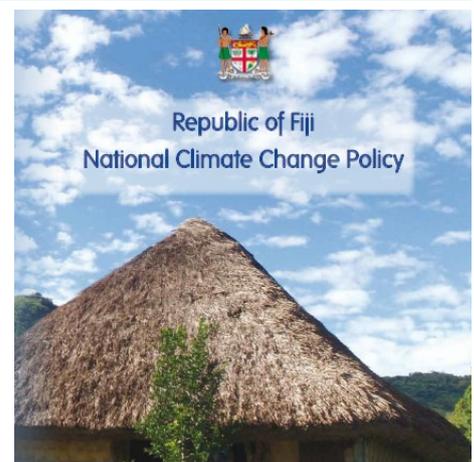
A Memorandum of Agreement between PACC Fiji and the Department of Environment was signed on June 22, 2011

disbursing funds to the Department for the development of the Climate Change Policy.

"Before the NCCP was in place we faced challenges such as long processes in soliciting support from other government departments and the general lack of awareness and interest in climate change issues," said Assistant PACC National Coordinator Mr Waqanidrola from the Ministry of Primary Industries.

[View full article](#)

For more information, contact Mr Taito Nakalevu at taiton@sprep.org



Pacific Islands joins the APAN family through SPREP partnership

February 2012



(L-R) Dr Puja Sawhney, Coordinator of the Regional Hub for APAN and Mr Kosi Latu SPREP Deputy Director General

As the sub-regional node for the Pacific Islands region, SPREP will cooperate with the Asian Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) to disseminate information on best practices and lessons learned, both from the PICTs to a wider audience, and from APAN to the PICTs.

This will be achieved primarily through cooperation with APAN on the development of and contributions to the Pacific Climate Change Portal. In addition, SPREP

and APAN will cooperate on sub-regional training programmes on climate change adaptation.

This will include capacity building workshops and training, with an indicative list of priorities being adaptation financing, adaptation project formulation and development, and managing information and knowledge resources at the national level.

[View APAN/SPREP Flyer](#)

For more information, contact Mr Espen Ronneberg at espenr@sprep.org

Progress of the Pacific Climate Change Portal

27 April 2012

SPREP is facilitating and continuing the development of the Pacific Climate Change Portal, an intended hub for climate change information and knowledge sharing for the region.

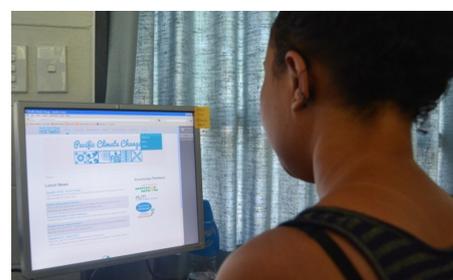
In February 2012, SPREP and GIZ (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) facilitated the establishment of the Pacific Climate Change Portal Advisory Committee and Technical Subcommittee.

The Advisory Committee is envisaged to enhance and strengthen the commitment of regional partners to the portal. The composition of the advisory committee and technical sub-committee has representatives from

the University of the South Pacific, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, GIZ and SPREP, with SPREP being the Secretariat to the Advisory Committee.

Within the Advisory Committee is the Technical Sub Committee comprising of representatives from these organizations who will contribute to the content and technical aspects of the portal.

The Advisory Committee meetings are scheduled for every quarter of the year. With funding assistance from GIZ, SPREP is recruiting a temporary research assistant to assist with populating the portal with information.



Work has also commenced to ensure that national climate change portals can be integrated with the Pacific Climate Change Projects Database.

The current state of the portal can be seen at www.pacificclimatechange.net.

The launch of the portal is scheduled for mid 2012.

For more information, contact Ms Makelesi Gonelevu at makelesig@sprep.org

Pilot Programme on Climate Change, a World Bank and ADB initiative

20th April 2012

The Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific is working in partnership with the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support Pacific Island countries in building resilience to climate change impacts under the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR).

In line with the objectives and goals of the overall PPCR the regional pilot for the Pacific will support countries to transform to a climate resilient

development path within national programmes that address climate change adaptation (CCA) and related disaster risk reduction (DRR) in an integrated manner.

This will be done with the critical support of regional organizations and strengthen national capacity, increase knowledge and replicate climate resilient measures.

The PPCR for the Pacific region, financed under the World Bank

Climate Investment Fund Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience has two components :-

- (i) a national component applicable to three countries (Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tonga) and
- (ii) a regional component comprising a pilot project to support the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation in national development plans.

[View full article](#)

For more information, contact Dr Netatua Pelesikoti at netatuap@sprep.org

20th April 2012



Pacific Island Countries and Territories represented at the UNFCCC COP17

A key outcome at the 17th Conference of Parties (COP17) was reaching agreement on a second commitment period for Kyoto Protocol (KP) for either five or eight years. There were fears that the KP would die in Durban and this decision secured its extension while a broader agreement is being negotiated.

The explanation for the five or eight year option is that the new agreement that comes into effect will determine how long the KP2 should last, and rests on technical quantification of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reductions that would span the KP2 extension and the introduction of a new agreement. There is also some uncertainty in how

developed countries will undertake their most ambitious pledges, ensuring a busy negotiations year for 2012.

To date, Canada, Japan and Russia have all announced that they will not likely engage in the KP, and the United States has also made it clear that it will continue to stay outside of this agreement. [View full article](#)

For more information, contact Mr Espen Ronneberg at espenr@sprep.org

PNG Biodiesel of Kulili Estate in Karkar Island

Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) realize the importance of energy as a driver to economic activities in these small island states. With the adverse impacts of climate change, one cannot rely on fossil fuel alone.

All these PICTs voted to shoulder the commitment to reduce their use of fossil fuel and increase on their renewable energy uptake and put more emphasis on energy efficiency practices.

The PICTs are telling the rest of the world that they are more vulnerable to the

adverse effects of climate change but emit less than 0.03% of the global total of greenhouse gas (GHG).

Not only is that, but the volatility of the world oil prices show negative effects on the economies of the small island states in the Pacific.

These island state Governments are pursuing opportunities to increase economic development via a more sustainable mean. [View full article](#)



An Expeller- extract oil from the crashed copra

For more information, contact Mr Nixon Kua at nixonk@sprep.org

New Climate and Meteorology Adviser joins SPREP



Mr Neville Koop

The adoption of the PIMS coincided with the arrival of SPREP's new Meteorology and Climate Adviser (MeCA), Neville Koop, who is tasked with beginning the process of implementing the PIMS. Neville is a

professional meteorologist with over 20 years experience working in and around the Pacific, and will be familiar to many who perhaps worked with him in his earlier work with SPREP back in the mid 1990's.

One of Neville's first tasks is to assist the Government of Finland complete the pre-implementation appraisal of the second phase of their programme of support for meteorological services in the Pacific.

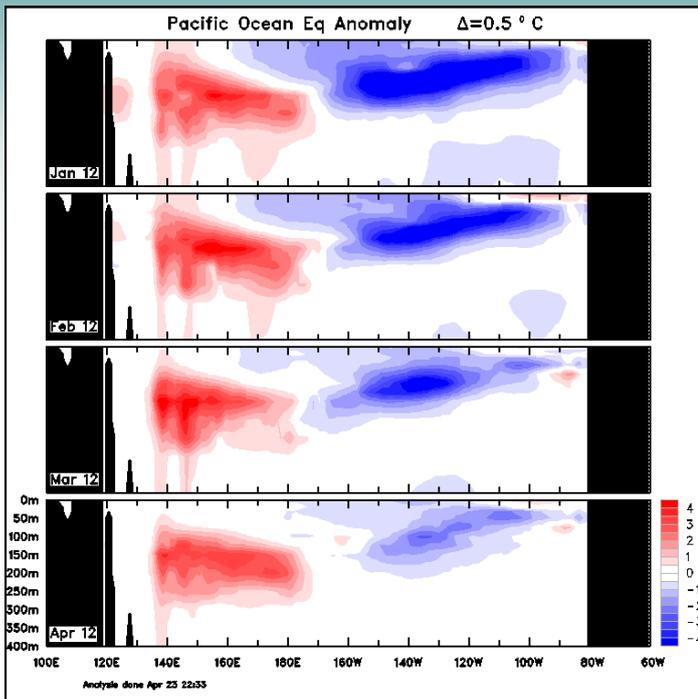
The Finnish-Pacific Project to Reduce Vulnerability of the Pacific Island Countries' Livelihoods to the Effects of Climate Change (FINPAC) project

- phase 2 comprises two separate but complementary projects; the SPREP project is focussed on capacity building in participating countries, while a second project prepared by the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) is mainly focussed on technical support and institutional strengthening.

Overall, both projects are jointly aimed at strengthening meteorological services and increasing the role and visibility of meteorological services and the use of weather and climate information at the community level.

For more information, contact Mr Neville Koop at nevillek@sprep.org

Weather Outlook for May



Image—Temperature anomalies over the Pacific Ocean along the equator from PNG (left) to South America (right) for 4 months from January 2012 (top) to April 2012 (bottom). This image shows the weakening of the warmer than normal sea temperatures in the western Pacific (shown in red) cooler than normal sea temperatures in the east (blue region on the right). This is consistent with the weakening and ultimately the end of the La Nina event that characterised the 2011-12 summer season in the south Pacific.—Image courtesy of Australian Bureau of Meteorology.

Rainfall should return to more normal patterns across the Pacific over the next three months. This is according to the latest monthly issue of the Island Climate Update, which is put together by NIWA, the Pacific Island meteorological services and SPREP.

Normal to below normal rainfall is forecast for Tuvalu, Tokelau, the Society Islands, Samoa and the Northern Cook Islands over the next three months. This should alleviate the severe water shortages that have been experienced in the equatorial central Pacific over the past year.

However care should still be taken with the limited water resources available. Near or above average rainfall is expected for Fiji, New Caledonia, Tonga, Vanuatu and Niue, while above rainfall is forecast for Papua New Guinea.

This return to normal conditions is mostly because the recent two year period of La Niña conditions has come to an end.

A neutral period (of neither El Niño nor La Niña) is forecast into the coming southern hemisphere winter. La Niña conditions in the Pacific are characterised by stronger than normal easterly trade winds across the equatorial Pacific. This causes cooler sea temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific and therefore less rain.

Upcoming Events

Event	Location	Date
Supporting Nauru in the development of their National Climate Change Policy, Joint Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management National Action Plan, RE Roadmap and Options for Accessing Climate Change Funds including a National Trust Fund. This is a joint partnership and collaboration support provided by SPREP, SPC, PIFs and GIZ.	Nauru	30 April – 11 May 2012
Multilateral Environment Agreement Workshop	Palau	2 – 4 May 2012
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Subsidiary Bodies Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alliance of Small Island States pre-meeting Group of 77 (G77) pre-meeting FCCC Meeting 	Bonn, Germany	9 –11 May 2012 12 –13 May 2012 14 – 25 May 2012
Pacific Launch of the Sustainable Energy for all initiative	Suva, Fiji	18 May 2012
Pacific Energy Donors Working Group Meeting	Suva, Fiji	18 May 2012
PIGGAREP 15 th Project Board Meeting	Suva, Fiji	21 May 2012
3D Participatory Mapping for community engagement and adaptation planning support	Honiara, Solomon Islands	21 – 25 May 2012
Monitoring and Evaluation of PIGGAREP activities in Tonga	Tonga	22 – 31 May 2012
Working Arm of the CROP CEO Sub-Committee on Climate Change Meeting (WACC)	Suva, Fiji	30 May 2012