

CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS

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Dark weather near Santo Island, Vanuatu. Photo: Sunny Seuseu

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Climate Change Matters.

The Paris Agreement will come into force when there is ratification from 55 countries that also make up 55% of global emissions. But NASA has recently released information that July 2016 was not only the hottest July on record globally, but also the hottest month on record globally as well. If the trends continue for the remainder of the year, 2016 will pass 2015 as the hottest year on record.

SIDS including the Pacific island countries Long Term Temperature Goal is 1.5°C long term limit in temperature increase as adopted by all Parties in Paris, recognising that even a limitation of global average temperature increase to 1.5°C is not certain to avoid dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, let alone protect vulnerable regions and communities from the adverse effects of climate change.

The announcement from NASA along with other factors question the feasibility of the 1.5C goal. It is going to be very hard to keep warming below 1.5C which mean emissions would have to drop so quickly and rapidly. Should SIDS at COP22 this November call for a clear definition and timeline where global temperature overshoots 1.5C and then comes back? Can we reverse climate change? Can we peak and decline temperatures? The important role of the IPCC is obvious and we wait with anticipation for when the PA would come into force and the special IPCC report on 1.5C.

I hope you continue to enjoy the incremental and herculean efforts made by Pacific island countries and territories to reduce their risks and to adapt.

Climate Change Matters, our Pacific Islands matter”



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



Solomon Islands Met staff proudly display their compliance certificate.

Solomon Island Meteorological Services Certification as Organisation for meteorological services provider for aviation in the Solomon Islands

Report from the Solomon Islands Meteorological Service

The achievement of certification of the Solomon Islands Meteorological Service (SIMS) as the Organisation for meteorological services provider on the 12 August 2016 is a great milestone in the history for the SIMS and the assurance of security and safety of the meteorological products and services for aviation users.

This certification is in compliance with the Civil Aviation Act 2008 PART IV RULES, where the Honourable Minister of the Crown in Solomon Islands Government may make rules (in this Act called "ordinary rules") for all or any of the following purposes – (a) the implementation of the obligations of Solomon Islands under the Convention of ICAO – Annex 3 applies to Meteorology; (b) the provision of aviation meteorological services, search and rescue services, and civil aviation security programmes and services.

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Tonga supports the Paris Agreement

Tonga ratifies the Paris Agreement on Climate Change

By Matangi Tonga Online

Tonga has ratified the Paris Agreement, the Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Siaso Sovaleni, told the Tongan parliament on Monday, 22 August.

Hon. Sovaleni said that government would deposit Tonga's instrument of ratification of the agreement on 21 September.

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Traditional Knowledge Tropical Cyclone map awareness. Photo credit: VMGD.

Vanuatu Traditional Knowledge project

By Albert Willy, Vanuatu Meteorological & Geo-Hazards Department

The Vanuatu Meteorological and Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD) is looking after the Traditional Knowledge project (TK) in Vanuatu. The project started in 2013 with the partnership of Vanuatu Cultural Center (VKS) Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) and GIZ. The project has four phases, and is currently in its third phase which is the collection and storing of the climate traditional knowledge into the database system. The final phase of the project will be the integration of the climate traditional knowledge with modern climate observations into products most useful to the communities to increase their uptake of meteorological products and to increase their resilience to extreme climate events.

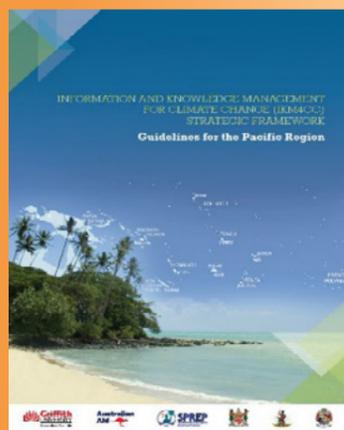
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Pacific iCLIM project launches Information and Knowledge Management for Climate Change (IKM4CC) Framework

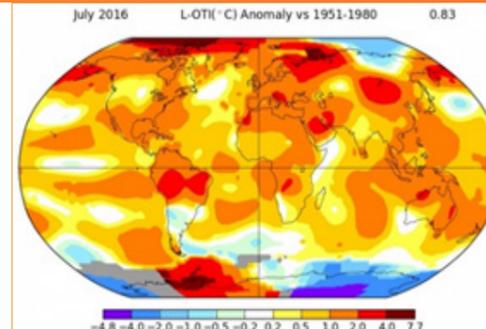
The Pacific iCLIM Project is pleased to announce the publication of two important project outputs – the Information and Knowledge Management for Climate Change (IKM4CC) Strategic Framework and the IKM4CC Guidelines.

The IKM4CC Strategic Framework outlines how information and knowledge management (IKM) can help maximise the value of climate change-related information, and the enabling factors that need to be in place within an organisation to support IKM activities. The framework will help organisations to map a strategy for developing and implementing good information management practices.

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The IKM4CC Framework.



Average global temperature anomalies in July 2016. Credit: NASA.

July 2016 was the Hottest Month on Record Globally

According to data released by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), July 2016 was not only the hottest July on record globally, but also the hottest month on record globally as well. If the trends continue for the remainder of the year, 2016 will pass 2015 as the hottest year on record. Fourteen of the warmest years on record have occurred between 2000-2015.

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Tammy Fukuji, PITD demonstrates the difference between wind waves and tsunami waves in the ITIC wave tank

Tokelau gets training from the Pacific International Training Desk (PITD)

By Meleka Mativa and Solonaima Mei, Tokelau Met Service

Two candidates from the Tokelau Meteorology team were chosen to go on a four-week non-credited training by the On-site Pacific Training Program in Honolulu, Hawaii. This was sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of Hawaii.

The Pacific Desk is intended to be a stepping stone to further develop participant's knowledge and understanding of key technical and meteorological concepts in areas of severe and local weather forecasting, dissemination of locally-produced meteorological, hydrologic and climate products at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in Honolulu.

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SPREP Deputy Director General, Roger Cornforth, tours the Minister of International Development and the Pacific from the Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Honourable Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, around the SPREP campus, with the Pacific Climate Change Centre site in the background

Australian Minister announces AU\$2.5 million in climate change investments for SPREP

A tour of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) was on the itinerary for Australian Minister of International Development and the Pacific, Senator the Hon. Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, and her Australian delegation while in Samoa on 22-23 August.

"It is a great pleasure to welcome you to Samoa, and especially to our SPREP campus," said Director General Kosi Latu. "The Australian Government is one of the key donors to SPREP and we are keen to strengthen our bonds through the work we do here at SPREP," he added.

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The Pacific islands Communication and Infrastructure Panel members.

Improving telecommunication networks and information technology infrastructure for weather, climate, tsunami, floods and other natural hazards data, information and warnings

The Pacific Islands Communication and Infrastructure Panel commenced its one-day discussion on the 24 July 2016 with the ultimate aim to improving telecommunication infrastructure for collection and dissemination weather, climate, tsunami, flood and other natural hazards data, information and warnings. More importantly is to foster greater dissemination of information and warnings to the "last mile" – most remote and rural islands' communities.

Chair of the Panel, Mr Ausetalia Titimaea from Samoa and two vice-Chairs, Mr. Wilson Leguvaka from Solomon Islands and Mr. Edward Young from the USA were elected to lead the works of the Panel.

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Mr. David Gibson, Director of Vanuatu Meteorological and Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD) at the National Framework for Climate Services consultations.

Vanuatu launched National Framework for Climate Services

The Government of Vanuatu, on 28 July 2016 launched the first ever National Climate Framework in the Pacific Islands region, called the Vanuatu Framework for Climate Services (VFCS) that details how the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services can work with social and economic sectors, and communities to use climate and weather information for decision making.

The development of the VFCS involved over 100 participants from the communities, provincial governments, government sectors and non-government organisations from all of Vanuatu. The discussions were based around assessing the relevance, reliability and content of the current climate information services provided by the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazard Department (VMGD) as well as mechanisms to foster greater integration and dissemination of information to the “last mile” – most remote and rural islands’ communities in Vanuatu.

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Dr. Kadhiza Tahera (BOM IT), Billy Chan Ting, and Ainsof So'o (SPREP IT) during their 1-week training in Melbourne.

COSPPac Climate Traditional Knowledge Server and Database Training and Handover

The Climate and Oceans Support Program for the Pacific's (COSPPac) Climate Traditional Knowledge (TK) component has started the first of many trainings to ensure the smooth transition of project activities from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology to the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

The climate traditional knowledge project is assisting Pacific National Meteorological Services to capture, monitor and store traditional knowledge and integrate these with scientific observations to enhance weather and climate forecasting.

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Papua New Guinea National Weather Services staff and Christina Gale (SPREP) in group discussions.

Papua New Guinea National Weather Service Walking the Talk

Differences in the meanings behind meteorological terms such as ‘isolated showers’, ‘scattered showers’ and ‘brief showers’ were discussed when forming a glossary for use by the Papua New Guinea National Weather Service (PNG NWS) at a training this week.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in partnership with the PNGNWS coordinated a two day training to enhance the communication skills of staff when sharing information through the media.

FINPAC aims to reduce the vulnerability of the livelihoods of Pacific islanders to the impacts of climate change through strengthening the Meteorological Services for which clear and effective communications plays a key role.

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Vanuatu Stakeholder Workshop Participants.

Vanuatu launches national climate change and disaster risk reduction portal

Organisations in Vanuatu can now contribute climate change and disaster risk reduction information to a central information portal that was launched at a National Advisory Board Portal (NAB) Workshop in August.

The NAB Portal aims to be a centralised ‘one stop shop’ for national projects and information related to climate change and disaster risk reduction information. It will act as the coordinating tool with the collaboration from all stakeholders while maintaining its role as a knowledge management hub for climate change and disaster risk reduction in Vanuatu.

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Cook Islands climate change negotiations training participants.

Cook Islanders enhance climate change negotiation skills

A four day training event was recently held in the Cook Islands for government officials and civil society representatives to learn more about the climate change, and how to negotiate climate change agreements, in the United Nations context.

This training event was co-facilitated by Climate Change Cook Islands and the Cook Islands National Council of Women, in partnership with resource persons from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and Climate Analytics. The purpose of the workshop was to raise awareness on climate change, climate change negotiations and also to assist with the Cook Islands delegations preparations for the next climate change conference of the Parties (COP 22) which will be held in Morocco in November.

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Participants of the Fourth Regional Tsunami Working Group.

Regional Tsunami Working Group Meeting gets underway

Report from the Solomon Islands Meteorological Service

The fourth meeting of the United Nation Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation – Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Regional Working Group on Tsunami Warning and Mitigation in the Southwest Pacific got under way in Honiara, Solomon Islands today (22 Aug' 2016).

The two-day meeting was opened by the Under-Secretary for Ministry of Environment, Climate change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, Mr Chanel Iroi who reminded everyone that, “tsunamis are natural happenings the best defense against which is an effective Early Warning System that allows people to respond in time to save lives and property damage”. He urged IOC and the Working Group to continue performing its catalytic and facilitative role in ensuring that the Tsunami Warning System is maintained, enhanced and improved especially at country and local levels.

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All-smiles from the Tautu villagers and representatives from SPREP, the Cook Islands Red Cross Society, Emergency Management Cook Islands and the Cook Islands Meteorological Services.

Tautu Village in Aitutaki, Cook Islands strengthens disaster and climate resilience

Tautu village in Aitutaki, Cook Islands now has completed a disaster and climate resilience pilot project. It was developed with support from the Finland-Pacific (FINPAC) Project which aims to reduce the vulnerability of the livelihoods of Pacific islanders to the impacts of climate change through strengthening the Meteorological Services.

This training event was co-facilitated by Climate Change Cook Islands and the Cook Islands National Council of Women, in partnership with resource persons from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and Climate Analytics.

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Opening of the WMO Severe Weather Forecast and Disaster Risk Reduction Demonstration Project.

Improving weather forecasting in the Pacific Islands

Report from the Solomon Islands Meteorological Service

Weather experts are meeting in Honiara, Solomon Islands to discuss further improvement of forecasting and providing early warnings on severe weather such as heavy rainfall, strong winds and high waves associated with tropical cyclones and other weather events. This is organised under the WMO Severe Weather Forecast and Disaster Risk Reduction Demonstration Project (SWFDDP).

In opening the meeting, Dr Melchior Mataki, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology encouraged the continued development and implementation of the SWFDDP in the Pacific Islands and to move it from demonstration to operation stage.

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EDITED BY
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The Oxford Handbook of International Climate Change Law.

Oxford University Press issues new handbook on climate change law

Climate change presents one of the greatest challenges of our time, and has become one of the defining issues of the twenty-first century. The radical changes which both developed and developing countries will need to make, in economic and in legal terms, to respond to climate change are unprecedented. International law, including treaty regimes, institutions, and customary international law, needs to address the myriad challenges and consequences of climate change, including variations in the weather patterns, sea level rise, and the resulting migration of peoples.

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La Nina watch in place

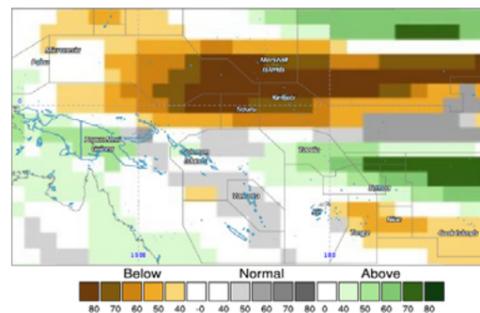
The signs that climatologists use to track the development of El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) that are present in the ocean and atmosphere collectively indicate that ENSO is no longer in El Nino territory, but within a ENSO-neutral conditions (not in El Nino nor in La Nina - but in between the extremes).

Rainfall was below normal in some parts of the western Pacific (e.g. Federated States of Micronesia), but generally the area close to Papua New Guinea and Indonesia (known as the Maritime Continent) experienced above normal rainfall and convective activity.

Majority of the models indicate that a transition towards La Nina is the most likely outcome (50% chance) over the August-October 2016 period. Changes for La Nina becoming established increases later in 2016 to reach about 55% for the November 2016-January 2017 period. If La Nina develops, it will remain in the weak category.

Therefore a La Nina watch is place for the region.

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Lead Month: 3, Year: 2016, Season: S, Methods: GAUS
Models: AFCC, CNIC, CWB, EBCA, NSG, NLSA, NCEP, JRA, POAMA
created by CLIJK@2016-08-31)

Regional Rainfall outlook for August to October 2016 generated from the SPREP CLIKP Forecasting Tool.

PROJECTS/EVENTS	DATE	WHERE
National Drought Policy Workshop	05- 08 Sept	Solomon Islands
COSPPac Sub-Regional Ocean and Tides Workshop	05- 08 Sept	Nadi, Fiji
COSPPac Traditional Knowledge Samoa Met Training Workshop	05-09 Sept	Apia, Samoa
11th Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting	07- 08 Sept	Apia, Samoa
GCCA Global Learning Event	12 - 15 Sept	Brussels
UNFCCC Expert Committee Meeting on Loss and Damage	15-16 Sept	Germany
The First Pacific Regional Workshop on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems using Space and GIS Technology	13 - 15 Sept	Nadi, Fiji
Developing methodology to evaluate climate change impacts in Small Island Developing States Inception workshop	16 Sept	Nadi, Fiji
SPREP Meeting	19 - 22 Sept	Niue
High Level Support Mechanism Meeting	27 - 29 Sept	Apia, Samoa
ROK-PI CliPS Project Planning Meeting	27 - 28 Sept	Busan, Korea
Pacific iCLIM Training Workshop	27-28 Sept	Tonga
FINPAC SmartAlert Regional Workshop	28-30 Sept	Nadi, Fiji
APEC Earth and Marine Observation Systems Workshop	27-30 Sept	Australia

ABOUT US

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

- 1 Adaptation
- 2 Mitigation
- 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



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