

Photo: Pauline Marsden

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EDITORIAL

In the month of June, the Pacific was in the spotlight at the high-level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development), demonstrating global leadership on ocean issues with Fiji and Sweden serving as co-chairs of the meeting.

The impacts of climate change on the ocean were at the forefront of the conference, with many countries reaffirming their commitment to the Paris Agreement and calling for greater consideration of the ocean in the UNFCCC process.

The threat posed by ocean acidification (SDG 14.3) was a prevailing theme of the meeting, including being a focal area for 236 of the 1393 voluntary commitments registered at the conference.

Closer to home, SPREP has been working to develop a Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Resilience proposal for the Green Climate Fund. In developing this proposal we have also begun work on a framework for project development that will help ensure that climate change interventions are based on robust information taking into account future climate change scenarios. This work will be presented and discussed during the regional GCF meeting to be held next month in Tonga.

Enjoy this month's edition and we look forward to hearing from you!

Climate change matters. Our Pacific islands matter.



SPREP participation in international dialogue on Forecast-based Financing

Forecast-based Financing (FbF) is an approach to 'Early Warning Early Action' that uses climate and weather forecasts to trigger release of disaster preparedness financing before a severe event occurs, enabling early actions to be taken by humanitarian organizations, the Government and communities in the window of time available between a credible warning and a potential disaster.

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Transition of COSPPac tools and services to SPREP well underway

SPREP staff are better equipped to assist with the transition of the Seasonal Climate Outlook for the Pacific Islands (SCOPI) and Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF) after intense training at the Australian Bureau of Meteorology as part of the Australian-funded Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac) project.

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Basic Instruction Package - Meteorological Technician (BIP-MT) Training Program for Pacific Small Island Development States and Least Developing Countries (SIDS/LDCs)

The Nuku'alofa Declaration endorsed by the Pacific Ministers Meeting on Meteorology (Nuku'alofa, Tonga, July 2015) recognised the vital importance of the mission of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in providing meteorological, hydrological and related services in support of relevant national needs, including protection of life and property, sustainable development and safeguarding the environment..

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Pacific Dialogue in Samoa initiates further steps towards critical climate change risk insurance for the region

Government officials from across the Pacific joined global experts from the private sector in a regional dialogue to discuss the role of climate risk financing in the region's resilience to climate change.

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SPREP and ADB foster relationship on Knowledge Management

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme's (SPREP) Climate Information Knowledge Management Specialist Philip Marsden met with representatives of Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Knowledge Sharing and Services Center in Manila, Philippines, in June to learn about ADB's extensive and innovative knowledge sharing efforts.

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Tuvalu Meteorological Services working with communities on early warning. Photo: Niko Iona/Tuvalu Met Service.

Early warning where there is no internet

By Andrew McElroy, UNISDR.

Living on an island in the middle of the ocean with no internet, television or mobile phones is a real-life disaster risk nightmare for one Pacific nation. Yet, the prospect of reaching the last mile - a phrase with true meaning in this part of the world.

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The Ulu o Tokelau presenting at the UN Oceans Conference. Photo: SPREP

Tokelau fortifies against climate change

Strengthening the coastline of Tokelau's three inhabited atolls against the impact of storm surges and rising sea levels is a key part of the territory's climate change strategy.

Its 100 per cent reliance on solar energy is also a prominent feature of the plan, which Tokelau is calling its Living with Change national strategy on enhancing resilience to climate change and related hazards for 2017 to 2030.

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Prime Minister of Fiji at the UN Oceans Conference. Photo:SPREP

Fiji renews call for bold global action on oceans

Fiji's Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama renewed his global call for action on oceans - with a particular call on Pacific Islanders to join the fight to save the seas and oceans.

"While we in the Pacific await this global response, we must do what we can ourselves. We must make a much greater effort to work together among ourselves to confront the challenge we collectively face.

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Republic of the Marshall Islands, Foreign Affairs Minister John Salik addressing the UN Oceans Conference. Photo: SPREP

War wrecks threaten our ocean, says Marshall Islands

Marshall Islands wants more work done on clearing its oceans of the wrecks and debris of World War II.

Foreign Minister John Salik says it is the hope of his administration that the risks posed by such wrecks including unexploded ordinances would be addressed.

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Prime Minister of the Cook Islands. Photo:SPREP

"Rights of the Ocean need to be explored" - Cook Islands Prime Minister

The Cook Islands has growing support in its call to explore the rights of the ocean as a legal person, during the UN Ocean Conference underway in New York this week.

First done by Ecuador in 2008, giving nature - its mountains, rivers forests, air, and islands legally enforceable rights to "exist, flourish and evolve"; New Zealand also gave the Whanganui River legal rights this year after 140 years of negotiation.

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2017 CLIMATE CHANGE DIVISION CALENDAR: JULY

PROJECTS/EVENTS	DETAILS	DATE	WHERE
Climate Champions Summit	Climate Champion's Climate Action Summit	03-04 July	Suva, Fiji
Vanuatu COSPPac Media and Stakeholders Workshop	Vanuatu Media and Stakeholders Workshop	03-07 July	Vanuatu
COSPPac Traditional Knowledge Project	Traditional Knowledge verification and forecast integration trainings. Finalisation of training materials for handover.	09-21 July	Melbourne, Australia
Climate Finance Regional Meeting USAID ISACC	JOINT regional meeting with DFAT GIZ CFPIR	10-14 July	Nadi, Fiji
NAPS	LEG Regional Training workshop on NAPS	10-13 July	Fiji
Adaptation Planning Tool and Climate Finance Navigator Soft Launch	Launch of the PCCP Decision Support tool to the USAID/DFAT/GIZ Climate Finance meetings	12-13 July	Nadi, Fiji
COSPPac Online Climate Outlook Forum 118	Pacific Islands Online Climate Outlook Forum for Seasonal Climate Prediction Outlooks	12 July	SPREP, Samoa



South Choiseul, Solomon Islands. Photo: Roger James / SPREP.



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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A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures

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