

Pacific Climate Change Roundtable Outcomes – Summary

The newly reconvened Pacific Climate Change Roundtable – under the theme of “1.5 to stay alive and thrive” - met at Taumeasina Resort in Apia, Samoa from August 13-15, preceded by the Regional Loss and Damage Dialogue that was held on the 11 – 12 August.

The event, led by SPREP and the CROP agencies and supported by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, hosted almost 200 representatives, including: government representatives of 14 Pacific Islands Countries and two Territories; media; academia; UN agencies; bilateral donors; multilateral development banks; multilateral funds; CROP agencies and young professionals from across the region.

The objective of the PCCR was to invite climate change focal points and other stakeholders from PICTs to engage collectively through the use of interactive activities to share their experiences amongst peers, bolster their networks and utilise the event to initiate new partnership opportunities.

Following the recommendations of the previous PCCR (held in May 2024) and endorsed at the Fourth SPREP Executive Board Meeting in September 2024, the first two days focused on the three key themes of Mitigation (including Just Transition), Adaptation and Loss and Damage and the final day involved interactive dialogue between countries and development partners, focused on access to finance and other critical means of implementation.

A full meeting report - including all relevant outcomes of the 2025 PCCR - is currently being developed, however a summary of the key findings is noted below:

- The PCCR serves an important missing regional link in supporting countries to develop their understanding, and enhance their implementation of, the obligations that stem from multilateral agreements, in particular the UNFCCC, through ongoing peer to peer learning.
- The PCCR is a key regional platform to advance regional efforts to deliver on the two climate change-related goals of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, i.e:
 - That all Pacific people are living safe, secure, and prosperous lives, resilient to the impacts of climate change and disasters.
 - The region remains a global leader on climate action.
- Consulting national focal points in advance and collaborating directly with development partners to drive the agenda of the PCCR (including its partners dialogue) ensured an inclusive approach, representative of the views and priorities of countries and stakeholders. This approach will continue in subsequent PCCRs.
- Emergent scientific evidence suggests an increasing rate of global warming and greater severity of climate impacts, further emphasising the existential risks to the region if the 1.5C limit is passed. It also illustrates the dangers associated with even modest overshoot, including irreversible impacts and physical tipping points in global systems.

- The PCCR will consider opportunities to enhance the collection and availability of regional scientific and climate change impact data building on current available data within the region, such as those hosted by Pacific Meteorological offices. This will boost Pacific Islands countries ability to generate climate data and projections and is crucial for countries to build their capacity to access the finance necessary to progress their mitigation and adaptation aims.
- Regional efforts are underway to “downscale the science” at national and sector levels and enhance its linkages with traditional knowledge. However, the region requires ongoing financial and technical support to strengthen these efforts and to ensure they inform society-wide decision making.
- Continuing to ensure that the “special circumstances of SIDS” (enshrined in the Paris Agreement) are protected, is key to unlocking the necessary finance to meet PSIDS mitigation ambitions.
- The transition to the “endgame” of a low/zero carbon future will require increased concessional finance, and public sector investment will continue to need scaling up to enable a more appealing landscape for private sector investment.
- This transition will only be enabled when countries’ absorptive capacity is enhanced through internal coordination and strengthened public financial management. This in turn requires better coordination amongst donor partners to provide the necessary capacity building and financial support. Regular interaction between PICTs and donors through fora such as the PCCR is a key mechanism to enable this.
- To date bilateral partnerships have delivered the most accessible finance, due to the more complicated administrative burdens imposed by multilateral funds and banks, however there is an increasing awareness of opportunities presented by leveraging scaled-up finance through regional/programmatic, longer-term approaches. The PCCR will continue to be a critical mechanism for convening countries and development partners to strengthen the effectiveness of climate finance in the region.
- The Pacific still needs to define what a Just Transition means in our context as it is nationally determined and not a “one size fits all” process.
- In the Pacific, adapting to the impacts of climate change remains a key priority. Adaptation limits are already being experienced in many parts of PICTs and ambitious, transformational adaptation actions are required to retain national sovereignty.
- National Adaptation Plans are survival plans by necessity; while the Pacific is leading the way on ambitious transformational adaptation concepts, we need enhanced technical and financial support to make these a reality.
- Effective monitoring, evaluation and learning is highly necessary to track the progress of adaptation solutions, enable course-correction and adaptive management and strengthen the case for new and additional climate finance from regional and international funding sources.
- Significant regional work is underway to mainstream Loss and Damage within government policy and, thanks to Pacific leadership, the relevant global bodies are now established for the necessary financial and technical support, but we need to continue to work closely with them to ensure they are flexible and responsive to Pacific needs.

- It is evident that the Pacific has become an innovative ‘first mover’ in developing practical actions to address loss and damage, but it is also clear that the needs of PICTs far exceed the current available L&D finance.
- A strong and decisive message was heard from young Pacific professionals, in the form of the “Pacific Youth Loss and Damage Apia Declaration”. The declaration calls for meaningful inclusion, education reform, capacity building, and accessible financing for youth-led climate responses.

These summarised outcomes and the full meeting report that will be circulated shortly will be utilised in the ongoing work plans of SPREP, working alongside OneCROP partners, in their delivery of mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage support to countries as well as the finance and other means of implementation necessary for their delivery.

Progress towards advancing these outcomes will also be considered at the next PCCR, scheduled to be held in 2027.

Next Steps:

- The outcomes of the 2025 PCCR are to be shared with the SPREP meeting.
 - Regional progress towards advancing the outcomes of the 2025 PCCR will be considered at the next PCCR.
 - The next PCCR to be scheduled for the second quarter (Q2) of 2027.
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