

First Executive Board Meeting

Apia, Samoa
10-11 September 2018

SPREP/EB 01/WP.10.1.2
Page 1

AGENDA ITEM 10.1.2: Pacific Climate Change Report Card

Purpose:

1. The first ever Pacific Marine Climate Change Report Card was published in June 2018 and launched as part of World Oceans Day. The Report Card is a product of a year-long project to analyze and co-ordinate the work of 60 Pacific climate change experts, with marine scientists from the United Kingdom.
2. The report card, which is accompanied by 13 detailed supporting reviews, summarizes current scientific understanding of climate change impacts on the region's marine environment. The document is intended to help Pacific islanders and decision-makers to understand and respond to the likely impacts of marine climate change. The accessible report card format highlights what action is already being taken in the region and what further responses are needed. More detailed reviews provide further information on each of the topics.
3. The Report Card initiative is a product of a dynamic collaboration that includes the UK's Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), UN Environment, The University of the South Pacific, The Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Climate Analytics-led IMPACT project

Background:

4. The report card provides an easy-to-read, scientifically robust summary of what we know about marine and coastal climate change impacts in the Pacific and explores some of the actions that are needed to respond to these impacts. It can be used as evidence to support policy, programmes and project development and is of relevance to the SDGs, a range of regional policies (e.g. the SAMOA Pathway; the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific; the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape; The Blue Pacific; and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism) and national adaptation planning processes (e.g. Joint National Action Plans). The Report Card provides valuable evidence in the context of the Oceans Pathway initiative, led by the Fijian Presidency at COP23, which calls for greater integration of ocean and climate change into the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes.

5. The report card covers three themes:
 - a. Climate change drivers (sea temperature, ocean acidification, sea level rise and extreme events)
 - b. Biological diversity (corals, mangroves, fish and shellfish and seagrass)
 - c. People (settlements and infrastructure and fisheries)

6. The report card underscores the urgency of action, and recommends measures for addressing the projected impacts including:
 - Emphasizing the importance of significantly reducing existing pressures from pollution, marine waste, population growth, overfishing and coastal development, to increase resilience to climate impacts.
 - Further incorporation of knowledge and needs of social and cultural groups in adaptation planning.
 - Ensuring that coastal planning and management are adaptable, and can be further developed with time, in line with future climate change.
 - Developing a better understanding of localised climate impacts, by bringing scientists and local communities together.

7. In order to increase its relevance and use in the region SPREP is supporting CEFAS to update the map included in the Report Card to provide information on more Pacific countries as the original version was limited to case studies from Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme countries.

Recommendations:

8. The Executive Board is invited to:
 - **endorse** the Pacific Marine Climate Change Report Card; and
 - **promote** use of the Pacific Marine Climate Change Report Card.

16 August, 2018