

CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS

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Photo: Yasur Volcano, Tanna, Vanuatu © Stuart Chape

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Talofa and Fakalofa lahi atu,

The month of May has seen a number of meetings and workshops that focussed on building Pacific resilience. This edition of the CCM captures a few stories of the important work that we all do.

A milestone visit to the Pacific by the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Antonio Gutiérrez, also provided a platform to discuss climate change with Pacific Leaders. Pacific Leaders reaffirmed that climate change is the single greatest threat to our Blue Pacific.

In our commitment to progressing the resilience agenda, we continue to deliver on climate actions by supporting Pacific National Meteorological Services in the use of sound, evidence based climate and ocean data and information. Our support has been tailored to shaping responsive adaptation measures that strengthen resilience in communities and development sectors.

The recently release World Economic Forum report – “Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2019” has provided a snapshot of the most likely scenarios the world is facing in relation to climate change mitigation.

Monuina,

Tagaloa Cooper-Halo

Director of Climate Change Resilience
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)



Climate science central to building resilient Pacific communities

The crucial role of science to help informed decision making in the face of climate change was stressed during a gathering of Pacific Met Directors and partners in the Cook Islands in May.

The meeting for the annual review of the Climate and Ocean Support Programme in the Pacific Phase 2, better known as COSPPac2. The programme works with Pacific island stakeholders to analyse and interpret climate, sea level data to produce valuable services for island communities.

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Enhancing resilience in Niue through access to weather and climate information

Reducing risk, and saving lives and livelihoods in Niue is at the core of a new project launched this week in the island nation. The project will enhance the access to and understanding of weather, climate and disaster information from their National Meteorological Service.

Known as the CREWS Pacific SIDS Project, the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems Pacific Small Islands Developing States Project is a US\$5 million regional project.

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Building Pacific resilience to climate change across 15 countries

Pacific Island Forum Leaders have repeatedly identified climate change as the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and well-being of the peoples of the Pacific.

April marked a major milestone in helping to build Pacific island resilience to this threat with the start of a EUR 12 million project spanning 15 countries, called the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) project, funded under the European Union's 11th EDF Intra-African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Programme.

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New Zealand the newest partner of the Climate and Ocean Support Program in the Pacific

The Government of New Zealand were commended for its support towards climate and ocean science work in the Pacific island through the Climate and Ocean Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac2).

This was announced at the opening of the Annual Programme Performance Review and Planning Meeting of COSPPac2, held in the Cook Islands in May.

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History made for Nauru with its very first National Meteorological Service

Having a National Meteorological Service - what some may take for granted, Nauru has worked hard to achieve with rewards reaped this month with Nauru announced as the 193rd member of the World Meteorological Organization as of 16 May 2019.

Since attending the Third Pacific Meteorological Council Meeting and the First Pacific Meteorological Ministerial Meeting in Tonga in 2015, with support from fellow Pacific islands, Nauru was empowered to pioneer a national Met Service having never had one.

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NZPPOA brings together Samoa and Tokelau in ocean acidification monitoring

The Government of Tokelau through the Ministry of Climate Oceans and Resilience (MiCORE) held a training on iSAMI and GO-ON in a box toolkit that monitors ocean acidification, which was held out in the field at one of Samoa's well known community fish reserve – Savaia, Lefaga.

The training was part of the support that the New Zealand Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification (NZPPOA) project provides to Tokelau as one of its pilot sites.

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Adaptation talk towards Ocean Acidification at Community level

On Wednesday 24 April, excited members of the Nanikai community gathered to their community hall in Tarawa atoll, Kiribati to participate in the New Zealand Pacific Partnership on Ocean Acidification workshop.

The NZPPOA project being implemented by SPREP aims to build resilience to ocean acidification in Pacific island communities and ecosystems. Nanikai community is one of the pilot sites of the project.

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Fostering effective energy transition 2019: Review

The recently released World Economic Forum report “Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2019” has provided a snapshot of the most likely scenarios the world is facing in relation to climate change mitigation.

It also provides a view on what the implications on the environment and economies will be. Ranging from the “Big Green Deal”, the “Technology Breakthrough”, “Dirty Nationalism” to “Muddling On”, the WEF paints a cogent and concise picture of likely projected futures. The authors stated that “Researchers and decision-makers should widen their focus to examine the implications of such alternative pathways to decarbonization — issues that go well beyond technology. Smoothing the road will take multilateral agreements, generous funding and cooperation.”

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Cook Islands prepares for Early Action Rainfall Watch

In the presence of the United Nations Secretary General, António Guterres, Pacific Island Forum Leaders reiterated that climate change is the single greatest threat to our Blue Pacific. Given this threat, it is imperative to enable early disaster preparedness action when early warnings are received.

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Pacific planning better informed with Climate Outlook Bulletins

SCOPIC is a common term heard when mixing within Meteorological circles, yet given its crucial role in how we plan our lives, it should be one that is common amongst many Pacific communities.

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CLIMATE CHANGE CALENDAR: JUNE 2019

DATES	NAME OF EVENT	LOCATION
13 - 14	AOSIS & G77 preparatory meeting	Bonn, Germany
13 - 28	UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies Meeting	Bonn, Germany
24 - 28	Kiribati Early Action Rainfall watch	Kiribati
24 - 28	Best Practise Ocean Acidification Workshop	Monaco



To find out more about SPREP's Climate Change Resilience (CCR) Programme please visit: www.sprep.org/programme/climate-change-resilience



PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE PORTAL www.pacificclimatechange.net



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Our vision: A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our culture

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