

# CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS

ISSUE 63 | AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2018

Photo: Pauline Marsden

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Dear friends,

As most of you know, the Forty-Ninth Pacific Islands Forum was held in Yaren, Nauru from 3 – 6 September 2018. The Leaders recognised that *“climate change presents the single greatest threat to the livelihood, security and wellbeing of Pacific people: They also reaffirmed the importance of immediate urgent action to combat climate change and committed to sustained, high level representation and collaboration in the lead up to, and at, the 24<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention (COP 24)...”* Part of our support to member countries includes a COP24 preparatory meeting for Pacific Ministers and negotiators, as part of the IMPACT project, in partnership with SPREP and the COP23 Fiji Presidency from 31 October – 3 November 2018 in Nadi, Fiji.

Since COP23, more research and studies reaffirm serious concerns on the impacts of climate change and impacts for Pacific islands. This issue of the CCM, includes a paper – *“Antarctic ice losses tracking high”* by Slater, T., & Shepherd A (2018) which states that since 1992, the Antarctic continent has contributed 7.66mm to global sea levels with 40% of this occurring in the past 5 years. For the Pacific this means Sea Level Rise will more than double in frequency of storm flooding for example.

Also featured in this edition is an update from the Vanuatu Climate Information Services project which is well underway as well as updates on implementation and capacity development on Ocean Acidification for seven Pacific island countries.

Finally, our Pacific Met Desk Partnership continues to engage to promote the importance of the ‘science’ and uptake of climate information for decision making at the different for a like the recent APEC Climate Symposium in Papua New Guinea. Our Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services are committed to providing reliable and timely information for decision making in our region.

Enjoy!

*Tagaloo*

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



## Antarctic losses tracking high

Analysis of data by scientists from the University of Leeds, United Kingdom shows that ice losses from Antarctica have accelerated over the past 25 years. This suggests the Antarctic contribution to future Sea Level Rise (SLR) may be at the upper end of previous estimates leading to greater SLR by 2100.

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## A new blog on Loss and Damage in the Paris Agreement rule book – state of play

The Paris Agreement recognises the importance of averting, minimising and addressing the loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. Since 2015, many Small Island Developing States and developing countries have argued this issue that it must be systematically considered in the Paris Agreement rule book and these discussions continued at the recent UNFCCC sessions in Bangkok.

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## Building capacity for Ocean Acidification monitoring in the Pacific

Efforts to help increase the capacity of scientists in the Pacific islands to measure ocean chemistry has culminated in a partnership between SPREP, the Ocean Foundation, and the Global Ocean Acidification Observation Network through the “GOA-ON in a Box” programme.

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## Vanuatu Climate Information Services bestowed with local title

*Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen blong Redy, Adapt mo Protekt* (Van-KIRAP) is the new name given to the Climate Information Services for Resilient Development project in Vanuatu. The Bislama name was selected through consultation with local stakeholders to ensure there is community understanding and ownership of the project and its activities.

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## Overcoming the challenges of an uncertain future with enhanced climate information services.

Our Pacific island communities face increased exposure to extreme climate events. In most countries, seasonal climate forecasts are available through national meteorological services, however, this information is derived from global climate models that are often not suitable for decision making at the Pacific island provincial and community level.

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## PACIFIC SPOTLIGHT – TUVALU

Mrs Uimai Uluao, a weather observer in Funafuti (Tuvalu Met Services) taking weather observations straight after her wedding and still wearing her wedding dress.

CCM acknowledges her commitment and congratulates her on her wedding.



Blackrock, Nikao, Rarotonga © Sunny Seuseu

## SEASONAL CLIMATE SUMMARY ISSUED OCTOBER 2018

- The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently neutral. However, current observations and model outlooks indicate El Niño remains possible in 2018. Therefore, the Bureau's ENSO Outlook remains at El Niño WATCH, meaning there is approximately a 50% chance of El Niño forming in the coming months; double the normal chance.
- The Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) has remained weak or indiscernible for a second week in a row. As such, it is unlikely that the MJO has had a strong influence on tropical weather for the past fortnight.
- The ITCZ was in slightly north of its long term August position. This resulted in enhanced convection over the northern islands of Federated States of Micronesia and Marshall Islands. In the south Pacific, the SPCZ was largely enhanced around the Solomon Islands and mainland PNG. Rainfall was suppressed over Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, parts of Kiribati and the northern Cook Islands.
- Below normal rainfall is favoured for parts of PNG, the eastern Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga while above normal rainfall is favoured for Kiribati. There is also a general agreement amongst the models regarding for below normal rainfall in countries along the SPCZ.

# CLIMATE CHANGE CALENDAR: OCTOBER 2018

DATES	NAME OF EVENT	LOCATION
1 – 5	Climate Resilience Monitoring and Evaluation in the Pacific islands	USP, Fiji
3 – 13	IT Tuvalu server installation and website launch	Tuvalu
9 – 13	Tuvalu Climate Change Portal setup and training	Tuvalu
10 – 12	Pacific Island Climate Outlook Forum – PICOF 4	Nadi, Fiji
11 – 12	Establishment of an Earth Observation platform to support Pacific island nation's environmental, climate and livelihood needs – consultation workshop	Brisbane, Australia
10 – 17	RESPAC, CREWS and WMO RA-V/RECO-7 Meetings	Nuku'alofa, Tonga
13 – 15	Social Media training for climate officers	Nadi, Fiji
16 – 22	Finalisation of Tuvalu NAO Concept Note	Tuvalu
22 – 25	Vanuatu IKM Workshop	Port Vila, Vanuatu
22 Oct – 2 Nov	Van-KIRAP sector engagement workshop	Port Vila, Vanuatu
24	Van-KIRAP steering committee meeting	Port Vila, Vanuatu
30 Oct – 1 Nov	Pacific Met engagement with IPCC	Australia
30 Oct – 3 Nov	Media Training/Pacific COP24 preparatory meeting/Fijian Presidency Meeting	Tuvalu
15 – 16	Social Media Training for Climate Officers	Fiji (Nadi)
29 Oct – 2 Nov	Pacific met engagement with IPCC	Australia
31 Oct – 2 Nov	Pacific COP24 preparatory meeting	Fiji (Nadi)



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



PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE PORTAL  
[www.pacificclimatechange.net](http://www.pacificclimatechange.net)



## CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS

ISSN: 2227-6947

Published by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

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