Climate Change Matters.

The month of July has brought new and expanding partnerships for SPREP as you will read between SPREP and the Australian Government’s key research institution: the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) and a second with German Government’s international aid agency (GIZ). We are working together to strengthen support to Pacific island countries’ national efforts to tackle climate change and ultimately improve their overall resilience. We will strengthen our existing efforts to increase our member countries’ access to reliable source of climate change information through the Pacific Climate Change Portal.

As part of our on-going capacity building programmes with member countries, we have successfully completed training of meteorological officers from 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories to “downscale” climate and weather forecasts using a computer based climate modelling program. This ‘transfer of knowledge and technical know-how’ took place through a week long training facilitated by SPREP and the Korea-Pacific Climate Prediction Project (ROKPI-CLIPS) in the Cook Islands. We anticipate that these meteorological officers will be able to perform more reliable weather forecasting as a result of this training and improve their analysis of weather data for decision making.

Finally we are preparing ourselves for the lead-up to our annual High Level Support Mechanism to prepare country delegates for the upcoming UNFCCC COP 22. As always, we look forward to discussing new issues and opportunities that COP 22 may bring for the Pacific. We will provide more details about this in our next edition.
Climate Portal receives new funding through GIZ and SPREP financing agreement

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) partnership is further enhanced through the signing of a new financing agreement to strengthen the Pacific Climate Change Portal (PCCP).

Signed on 14 July, 2016 during the 19th Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation Annual Meeting in Fiji, the agreement spans 12 months and will allow for the PCCP team to continue ongoing maintenance and update content update of the Pacific portal.

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Introducing SPREP’S New Deputy Director General

SPREP’s new Deputy Director General, Roger Cornforth, started his official duties on May 30, 2016. Roger, a national of New Zealand, is no stranger to SPREP, having worked as Programme Officer, and Technical Management Group member of the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme from 1993-1997, as a member of the advisory group for the design of the Pacific Integrated Coastal Management Programme, and as a founding member of the Pacific Roundtable for Nature Conservation.

He brings to SPREP extensive strategic leadership and international experience in the environment and development sectors and from a number of senior leadership roles in the Department of Conservation of New Zealand, in NZAID, and within New Zealand’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, including in international climate change and sustainable development negotiations.

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Downscaling the buzz word for Pacific Met services across the region

"This is a new era for our Pacific Met Services, it not only empowers us but it is also a pioneering opportunity for us in the region," - Sunny Seuseu, SPREP. Pacific Met Services officers are learning more about how to ‘downscale’ climate and weather forecasts using a computer based programme in the Cook Islands. 'Downscaling' is when forecasts can be specific to a certain village, district or weather station as opposed to a whole nation or PCCP.

"Seasonal forecasting is done through the use of climate models, downscaling is when we are able to manipulate the models so they can simulate a micro climate which is when you have different climate at the same time within a country based on geography" said Mr, Sunny Seuseu the Climate Prediction Services Project Coordinator, SPREP.

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SPREP and CSIRO to work together to help strengthen Pacific Island resiliency

A new Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) will explore a range of different collaborative opportunities that achieve shared outcomes which will be of benefit to SPREP members. “SPREP continues to broaden its horizons, and wide reach across the Pacific region and the world, in order to help bring world class support to our Pacific islands community, in the area of science and research,” said Mr. Latu. “This MOU is formalising the excellent working relations between CSIRO and SPREP which was initially established through the Pacific-Australia Climate Science Programme (PCCSP) and the Pacific-Australia Climate Change Science and Adaptation Programme (PACCSAP) during the period 2009-2014.

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Niue Met Service installs new Automatic Weather System

A new Automated Weather Station in Niue will assist with improving the safety standards of Niue’s aviation and the quality of weather and climate data for development planning and early warning services in Niue.

Funded by the Finnish-Pacific (FINPAC) Project, the iSTAR Automated Weather Station is a new milestone achievement for the Pacific islands. FINPAC aims at reducing the vulnerability of the livelihoods of Pacific islanders to the impacts of climate change through strengthening the Meteorological Services.

READ MORE ...

Pacific islanders to benefit from computer based programs for their Met Services

Fifteen Pacific Island Met Services across the region were gifted laptops to help strengthen their forecasting abilities using new ‘downscaling’ climate prediction software which will help provide weather and climate forecasts for Pacific island communities.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in partnership with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Climate Center is embarking on the regional Met project Korea-Pacific Climate Prediction Project (ROKPI-CLIPS). This introduces a new Seasonal Climate Prediction System which gives you the option of combining climate models from ten different global meteorology centres to develop a prediction system over any three month period.

READ MORE ...

Pacific island women pursuing careers in Meteorology

Meteorology in the Pacific islands is largely a male dominant field, yet it may be a sign of changing times when six of the 14 Pacific Met Officers attending a regional met training are Pacific island women.

The one week training held in the Cook Islands for Pacific met officers on how to use a computer based tool to develop seasonal forecasts. This is led by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Climate Center (APCC) in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and is close to achieving gender balance in more ways than one. Both delegations from APCC and SPREP that are facilitating the training consist of 50% male and female members, with technical expertise in relevant areas.

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Climate phenomenon El Niño comes to an end; La Niña development possible

The super El Nino event that began last year has come to an end. Large parts of the Maritime Continent such as Indonesia and Papua New Guinea have registered above normal rainfall in June 2016, in sharp contrast with the previous months.

The Pacific Convergence Zone (or SPCZ); an enhanced area of clouds and rain for the region normal rainfall in June 2016, in sharp contrast with the previous months.

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SAVE THE DATE - SPREP to convene a meeting for the Pacific High Level Support Mechanism, to prepare for COP22

SPREP, in partnership with Climate Analytics and Charles and Associates will be convening a High Level Support Mechanism (HLSM) meeting, the week of September 27th to 29th, in Apia, Samoa.

SPREP, Climate Analytics and Charles and Associates have been implementing such programmes under the HLSM since 2012. The aim of the High Level Support Mechanism is to help prepare Pacific Ministerial, high level and senior delegates for the United Nations climate change negotiations.

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Pacific science-based climate information to be rolled out through new regional project

Sharing new findings in science-based climate knowledge products will roll-out across the region. Products developed by the Pacific-Australia Climate Change Science Adaptation Planning (PaCCSAP) program will be at the core of the project to help Pacific islanders gain a deeper understanding of the science.

The project is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and is being led by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) as a joint initiative on behalf of CSIRO, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology...

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Common but differentiated responsibilities.

Many Pacific island delegates that attend the UN Climate Change Meetings may be familiar with Susan Biniaz, who has been the lead climate change lawyer for the U.S. delegation since 1989. From September 2016 she will be teaching International Environmental Law at the Columbia University Law School. In that capacity she has prepared a new working paper for final publication later this year, “Common but Differentiated Responsibilities.”

READ MORE ...

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<tr>
<th>PROJECTS/EVENTS</th>
<th>DETAILS</th>
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<tr>
<td>NZ PP Ocean Acidification for Kiribati</td>
<td>Inception and Planning meeting for government partners and other relevant stakeholders about ocean acidification, PPOA project and next steps</td>
<td>01-04 Aug</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
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<td>GCF Workshop</td>
<td>Execute SPREP’s obligation as Delivery Partner for GCF Readiness project</td>
<td>01-04 Aug</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
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<td>Consultations and workshop on M&amp;E Framework</td>
<td>Follow up consultations and workshop to further develop the draft M&amp;E Framework for the Agriculture Sector of the Korean Strategic Development Plan</td>
<td>08-14 Aug</td>
<td>FSM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cook Islands Negotiations Training Workshop</td>
<td>Provide in country training to the Cook Islands Government (through the Office of the Prime Minister Climate Change Division) on UNFCCC negotiations, and assist to prepare the Cook Islands delegation to UNFCCC COP 22</td>
<td>08-14 Aug</td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
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<td>Vanuatu NAB Portal Launch and Training</td>
<td>To attend NAB Portal Launch and assist with training of national agencies on the NAB portal</td>
<td>17-18 Aug</td>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
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<td>Papua New Guinea Media Training</td>
<td>To coordinate training for the PNG Met Services and identify areas of partnership with national media, as well as develop PNG Met Media Outreach Plan</td>
<td>22-26 Aug</td>
<td>PNG</td>
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<tr>
<td>IOC/PTWC/Southwest Pacific Working Group meeting</td>
<td>To coordinate partnership and areas of collaboration for members</td>
<td>22-23 Aug</td>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting of the Radio Network (RANET) Communications Group</td>
<td>To coordinate and provide technical support for members and the Pacific Islands Meteorological Council (PIMC)</td>
<td>24 Aug</td>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Meeting on the SWORDDP</td>
<td>To coordinate and provide technical support for members and the Pacific Islands Meteorological Council (PIMC)</td>
<td>25-27 Aug</td>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Meeting of the Tropical Cyclone Committee for the South Pacific and South Indian Ocean</td>
<td>To coordinate and provide technical support for members and the Pacific Islands Meteorological Council (PIMC)</td>
<td>29 Aug - 2 Sept</td>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
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CLIMATE CHANGE MATTERS – NEWS FROM THE CLIMATE CHANGE DIVISION

PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE PORTAL  www.pacificclimatechange.net/