

Climate Change Matters

Fakalofa lahi atu,

As we explore ways to continue the work in the face of COVID-19 restrictions, we have fully transitioned to virtual meetings and conferences.

Being unable to work in countries we have been forced to be innovative. We have formed new partnerships on the ground in our member countries, to support implementation of activities we committed to, we have held several virtual gatherings with our member countries, from meetings with 20 representatives to full scale conferences of between 200 and 400 participants. Whilst it is always preferable to undertake interventions in country and hold face to face meetings, there is a silver lining—we have been able to involve a lot more stakeholders and deliver training to almost triple the number of participants .

This new issue captures a series of stories of the important work that we do in the climate change space. Some notable events include the Seventh Pacific Island Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF-7) which was held virtually and brought together Pacific meteorological services and stakeholders from around the Pacific region and the world to review the climate and ocean observations of the last six months, and discuss the model outlooks for the next three to six months. This meeting was particularly important given that La Niña is officially underway in the Pacific.

We have been working with over forty youth farmers in Samoa on building awareness on how weather and climate can influence and impact their cocoa plants and farms and ultimately their harvests and thus livelihoods. In doing this we are taking climate information to the 'last mile' and giving real meaning to building resilience in our communities.

Last week the third Pacific Ocean Pacific Climate Change Conference was hosted by the Government of Samoa, in partnership with the National University of Samoa (NUS), Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). Held virtually for the first time over the course of four days, under the theme "Blue Pacific, Climate Action for Climate Resilience". More than 400 participants joined the meeting and were reminded by SPREP's Director General, Mr Kosi Latu, that, "Climate change is a multi-faceted issue, as well as a global issue, and it requires the action of everyone whether it be governments, international or regional organisations, non-governmental organisations to community groups, we need everyone to be a part of that process."

Please feel free to send your stories in to share through the CCM or the Pacific Climate Change Portal by sending information to emmas@sprep.org or teuilaf@sprep.org.

Kia manuia

Tagaloa

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

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Tagaloa Cooper-Halo

Youth Farmers Learn Of The Impacts Of Weather And Climate On Cocoa Crops

Over 40 youth Koko farmers are now better informed and aware of how weather and climate can influence and impact their Cocoa plants and farms following a two-week training workshop in Savaii. The Youth Koko Initiative is a program organised by the Samoa Chamber of Commerce, funded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and supported by SPREP, with the vision to support youth koko farmers to excel in their farming capacities to support livelihoods.

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Pacific Urged To Maintain Momentum In Fight Against Climate Change

As the curtain fell on the 2020 Pacific Ocean, Pacific Climate Change conference (POPCCC), organisers asked of themselves, their participants, keynote speakers, and presenters, "What are the next steps we need to take from here?"

The third POPCCC was hosted by the Government of Samoa, in partnership with the National University of Samoa (NUS), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington (VUW).

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New Paper on Enhancing Climate Resilience Using Traditional Knowledge Published Online

The Climate and Oceans Support Programme in the Pacific (COSPPac) recently had its Overall Traditional Knowledge Project paper published online as a chapter in the Palgrave Handbook of Climate Resilient Societies.

The paper, titled "Enhancing Climate Resilience in the Pacific: Assessment of a Participatory Approach to Improve Climate Communication", was co-authored by Dr Lynda Chambers of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology; Mr Roan D Plotz of Victoria University in Melbourne, Australia; Ms Siosinamele Lui and Mr Tile Tofaeono of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); Mr David Hiriasia of the Solomon Islands Meteorological Service; Mr Ofa Fa'anunu and Mr Seluvaia Finaulahi of the Tonga Meteorological Service; Ms Rosslyn Pulehetoa Mitiepo of the Niue Meteorological Service; Ms Faapisa Aiono of the Samoa Meteorological

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Fraction of money earmarked for COVID-19 recovery could boost climate efforts

Governments worldwide are planning stimulus packages to boost the economy following the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. So far, more than \$12 trillion USD have been pledged in such packages. This response is three times larger than the 2008-2009 global financial crisis recovery spending, and represents around 15 percent of global gross domestic product (GDP).

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Innovation Leads To Great Opportunities Through Training At The Pacific Climate Change Centre

The Pacific Climate Change Centre is applying new and innovative technologies to continue building Pacific capacity, opening up training opportunities for more people.

In September a regional virtual training on "Climate Science – observed climate change and future climate projections" saw twice as many people participate than when held in person.

Applying innovative technologies, the training continues at the PCCC through the "Project for the Capacity Building on Climate Resilience in the Pacific" at the Pacific Climate Change Centre in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP), the Government of Samoa and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

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Solomon Islands Met Services establishes Ocean and Marine Weather Services division

The Solomon Islands Meteorological Services (SIMS) is committed to their role as one of the authorities responsible for ensuring the safety and well-being of mariners in the Solomon Islands, by providing Ocean and Climate Services; and Marine Weather Services, to all travellers in Solomon Islands.

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Tackling Climate Change Risk Management in the Pacific

The forecast increase in extreme weather events and slow-onset climate related changes is a huge threat to the ability of the Pacific to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Known as Loss and Damage - when the climate impacts exceed the capacity for countries, communities and ecosystems to adapt – it worries the Pacific island region given what is forecast to come.

For Small Island Development States in the Pacific region, building resilience to better cope with the impacts of climate change is among their most important development challenges. These impacts on vulnerable groups as well as the private sector can be particularly severe. Among the sectors most affected are, for example, agriculture, water and food security, sanitation, coastal and marine resources, infrastructure and tourism..

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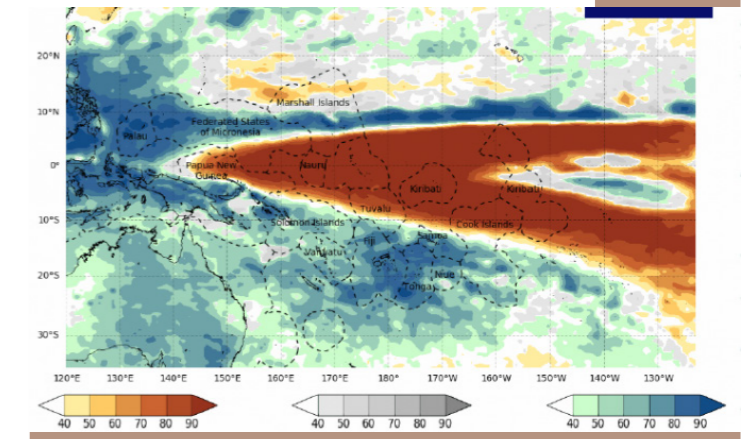


La Niña Officially Declared in the Pacific

La Niña is officially underway in the Pacific, as confirmed by the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

La Niña is a Spanish term which means "a girl", and is the name given to the phenomenon where the trade winds become stronger, enhancing the warm pool in the western Pacific and causing the sea surface temperatures in the Central and eastern Pacific become cooler.

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Reaching Pacific Audiences During The Cyclone Season

Pacific islands media play a crucial role in building the resiliency of our local communities, even more so as we enter the Tropical Cyclone season. The more informed our media are of coming climate and extreme weather events, the better they can relay that information on to Pacific communities, in a manner to empower preparedness and response.

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Tonga Met Office seeks to improve Storm Surge Warnings by consulting communities that were affected by Severe Tropical Cyclone Harold

The Tonga Meteorological Services of the Ministry of MEIDECC on September, 18 held a consultation workshop with representatives from coastal areas of Tongatapu to discuss ways to improve the warnings of storm surge or large waves created by tropical cyclones. When Severe Tropical Cyclone Harold passed near Tongatapu and 'Eua in April, it caused storm surge or large waves of up to 14 meters high and inundated up to 300 meters inland in some places. Mostly along the western and northern coasts of Tongatapu and 'Eua. The storm surges destroyed millions of dollars' worth of property and infrastructure in what many described as one of the worst storm surges or sea flooding associated with a Tropical Cyclone in living memory.

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Lessons from the Past: A method to Assess the Impact of Adaptation in the Pacific

The future of our world is turned upside down by COVID-19, yet let us not detract from a Pacific call to learn from the past and scale up adaptation. The existence of an impact assessment methodology of past interventions, several years after their completion remains a major gap in the Pacific. From a recent online survey of a Pacific pool of practitioners, managers and officials, 83% showed interest in the potential for an impact assessment methodology.

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Managing Climate Risks in the Pacific through Transformational Change

"The consideration of climate change needs to be a 'must do', not a 'nice to have', and we need to take every opportunity to succeed."

This was the message relayed by Mr Adrian Orr, Governor of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand in his keynote address on progressing climate change action by driving transformational change, delivered during the second day of the 2020 Pacific Ocean, Pacific Climate Change conference (2020POPCCC).

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La Niña And Tropical Cyclone Season High On The Pacific Agenda

The Seventh Pacific Island Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF-7) was held virtually, bringing together Pacific meteorological services, technical institutions, media and stakeholders from around the Pacific region and the world to review the climate and ocean observations of the last six months, and discuss the model outlooks for the next three to six months.

PICOFs have been held annually in the Pacific since 2015 and are traditionally convened in October to coincide with the beginning of the Southwest Pacific tropical cyclone and north Pacific dry season. However, a recent review found that one PICOF a year is not sufficient to provide much needed information on the state of the climate.

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Helping To Understand Climate Change In Vanuatu

Strengthening climate change awareness in Vanuatu is at the core of a one day training for national media and communications officers in Port Vila today. This comes a week before Vanuatu has its Climate Change week from 12 – 16 October, 2020.

In recognition of the important role played by Pacific media and government communications officers, to share information and help build awareness and knowledge, a partnership has come together to help empower more news on climate change across Vanuatu.

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Early Action Rainfall Workshop Held In Solomon Islands

A sub-national workshop to raise awareness and train key sub-national stakeholders to understand and correctly interpret sub-seasonal to monthly to seasonal scale, extreme rainfall and impact information in the Early Action Rainfall (EAR) Watch bulletin in order to effectively disseminate and communicate to communities was conducted last week in Solomon Islands.

The workshop, which was held from 7 – 8 September at the Heritage Park Hotel in Honiara, was organised by the Solomon Islands National Meteorological Services with assistance from the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, Australian Government-funded COSPPac and SPREP. The workshop was funded by the French Red Cross, World Vision, Australian Pacific Climate Partnership and COSPPac.

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Women In Climate Change Shifting The Power

The story of Pacific island women leaders across six different Pacific countries working for an inclusive approach in climate change and related disasters was told at the Third Pacific Ocean Pacific Climate Change virtual conference. Shifting the Power Coalition is comprised of women's rights and disability organisations across the Pacific region working together to strengthen diverse women's voices, agency and decision making in disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

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NDC Hub hosts training workshop on MRV of GHG emissions in the Pacific

The Regional Pacific Nationally Determined Contribution Hub held a three-day virtual capacity building workshop on measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for its Pacific Government counterparts from 27 – 29 October 2020.

Coordinated by the Hub's implementation partner, the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), the workshop focused on enhancement of local capacities for collecting, reporting and retention of GHG emissions data to support national reporting, using tailored methodologies and measurement systems, and understanding the institutional and governance settings associated with MRV of GHG emissions.

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**REGIONAL
PACIFIC
NDC HUB**

CALENDAR

		CALENDAR
NOVEMBER	10-13	CREWS Samoa Planning and Inception Workshop ClimateChangeResilience@sprep.org
	11	One CROP+ Team Coordination meeting (Virtual) ClimateChangeResilience@sprep.org
	11-13 & 18	VAN-KIRAP Sector Implementation Activity Work Planning (Virtual) ClimateChangeResilience@sprep.org
	12-27	CBCRP-PCCC 3rd Training on Understanding Access to Climate Finance - Essential aspects for Access to Climate Finance (Virtual) cbcrp.pccc@gmail.com
	23-11 Dec	CBCRP-PCCC 4th training on understanding access to climate finance - Gender, Social Inclusion and Safeguards (Virtual) cbcrp.pccc@gmail.com
DECEMBER	1-11 Dec	Spotlight on Pacific Climate Change Reality (Virtual) ClimateChangeResilience@sprep.org
	4	The Pacific Islands Education, Training and Research (PIETR) Panel Meeting (Virtual) ClimateChangeResilience@sprep.org
	4	The Pacific Climate Change Centre Advisory Board Meeting (Virtual) ClimateChangeResilience@sprep.org
	7 & 9	CSIRO Next Generation Projections Regional Workshop (Virtual) ClimateChangeResilience@sprep.org

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- La Niña continues in the tropical Pacific. Australian and international climate models suggest it is likely to continue at least into February 2021.
- The Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was shifted to the north, while the South Pacific Convergence Zone (SPCZ) was more active east of Fiji
- A weakening pulse of the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) is currently located over the tropical central Pacific Ocean with most climate models suggest it will weaken in strength while moving eastwards towards the tropical Americas in the coming week.
- Sea level in October was higher than normal for most countries in the region, with positive anomalies (15-25cm) situated around Palau, FSM, RMI, and the far north of eastern Kiribati, while smaller patches of +15 to +20cm anomalies occurred around the northern PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga. Sea level in the central to eastern equatorial Pacific was lower in October than September.
- Coral Bleaching Alert is on Alert Level 2 in the western and central part of FSM while areas of Alert Level 1 exist around FSM and eastern Palau. The Coral Bleaching Outlook shows the region of Alert Level 2 remaining similar over FSM, with Alert 1 expanding in Palau, the northern PNG coast and parts of the far northwest Solomon Islands. The rest of northern PNG, the Solomon Islands, central and southern RMI, Tuvalu, northern Fiji and Samoa are on Warning and Watch alert, while remaining south-west Pacific countries are rated as 'no stress'
- For November 2020 to January 2021, the dynamical models (as well as SCOPIC) agree on above normal rainfall for Palau, southern Marshall Islands, most parts of PNG, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Niue, southern Cook Islands and southern French Polynesia. The models also agree on below normal rainfall for northern Marshall Islands, northern PNG, Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu, northern Cook Islands and central and northern French Polynesia.

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A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures