

**Agenda item 9.1: Regional Goal 1 Overview: Pacific people benefit from strengthened resilience to climate change**

**Purpose:**

1. To provide the Meeting with an overview of progress of implementation of Regional Goal 1 targets for the biennial period 2024 – 2025.

**Background:**

2. For the biennial period 2024 - 2025, SPREP will continue to support Members to achieve their goals towards building a Pacific that is resilient to climate change. This working paper provides an overview of the progress of key activities and initiatives to be implemented by SPREP in collaboration with Members for this current biennial.

**Work Areas for 2024 – 2025:**

**RO1.1: Strengthen the capacity of Pacific Island members to lead, prioritise, and manage national climate change adaptation (CCA), mitigation (NDCs) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) in fulfilment of their national environment and development goals and their voluntary and legal obligations under regional and international agreements.**

3. Members were supported in reviewing institutional and governance arrangements and policies frameworks and developed updated climate change policies. SPREP will continue to provide this support to Members through provision of technical experts and financial support through projects.
4. SPREP the Secretariat convened the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR) at Taumeasina Island Resort in Samoa from 8 to 10 May 2024. The PCCR focused on supporting Pacific climate change focal points to develop and agree to a governance structure that sets out the ongoing role and outputs of the PCCR, the roles and responsibilities of its stakeholders and the focus of agreed thematic areas – to deliver a country-driven decision-making process that ensures the PCCR will address climate change priorities highlighted by its Members.
5. SPREP through the Australian funded Strengthening Pacific Leadership in International Climate Change Engagement Project continues to support members through preparatory work and negotiations support at the UNFCCC COP28 and will continue to do so in preparation for COP29. This work ensures that Pacific negotiators are provided with knowledge, information and tools to effectively engage in, and work to influence the outcomes of, international climate change meetings consistent with regional objectives and priorities.

6. The Moana Blue Pacific at COP28 was supported by Australia and New Zealand and amplified the Pacific voice and engaged a global audience with the Pacific's experiences, worldview and knowledge in the face of the impacts of climate change at the UNFCCC in 2023. This support continues as we prepare for COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.
7. The Pacific Delegation Office at COP28 was supported by New Zealand and provided a dedicated space for Pacific negotiators to strategise and coordinate their positions during COP28, this support continues in preparation for COP29.
8. SPREP will continue to support countries in implementing national adaptation planning processes, update climate change impact, vulnerability and risk assessments, formulation and implementation of National Adaptation Plans. SPREP is currently supporting FSM, Nauru and Tuvalu in developing National Adaptation Plans.
9. SPREP successfully developed and trialled the methodology for impact analysis of past climate change adaptation interventions to inform new climate change adaptation interventions. The methodology was trialled in Cook Islands, FSM, Palau, Tonga and Fiji with a focus on agriculture, water security, coastal protection and marine resources. The methodology was developed and trialled with funding from the Intra ACP GCCA Plus Scaling up Pacific Adaptation project. The methodology will continue to be applied through the PCCC's research function; findings will inform new adaptation projects that SPREP will develop on behalf of Members.
10. SPREP NDC Hub has completed the third round of implementation of NDC country requests from the governments of Nauru, Samoa and Tuvalu. Through more funding opportunities, SPREP will provide assistance to more member countries focusing on small to medium scale mitigation activities and trialling innovative renewable energy technologies, suitable and replicable in the region.
11. Through funding from the Government of New Zealand, the Tomai Pacific is ready to support Members requests for rapid deployment of technical experts to assist in strengthening climate change policies, and access to climate finance.
12. Climate Services and Related Application (ClimSA) continues to support and work with partner agencies such as the WMO, UNDRR, and SPC to encourage yearly joint forums (joint meeting) between the meteorology and disaster risk reduction (DRR) communities. This collaboration is essential to manage disaster risk effectively, focusing on critical elements such as real-time data exchange, forecast-based early warning protocols, and the integration of meteorological data with risk management platforms, leading to more effective disaster risk management and increased resilience to natural hazards.
13. Climate and Ocean Support Services Programme for the Pacific (COSPPac) supported tools such as SCOPIC and ACCESS-S models to monitor drought monthly. The information (Early Action Rainfall Watch bulletin) is provided to National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) and National Red Cross Society to plan national action on how to mitigate and minimise extreme dry and wet conditions at the communities at the climate variability time scale.

14. SPREP will continue to provide support toward implementation of the FRDP through its membership on the PRP Task Force and support operational functions of the Pacific Resilience Partnership as a member of the PRP Support Unit. This will allow for continued efforts toward regional level coordination and integration by relative partners, stakeholders, and practitioners in supporting, and alignment to national level climate change adaptation, mitigation, and risk reduction policies and plans.
15. The PCCC continues to bring broader benefits to support adaptation and mitigation priorities of the Pacific through the delivery of its key services on Knowledge Brokerage, Science to Services and Research, Capacity Building, and Innovation.
16. The PCCC continues to strengthen access to climate information and knowledge including translation and synthesis, to inform decision and has completed the upgrade and redeployment of the Pacific Climate Change Portal.
17. The PCCC continues to strengthen research on climate change research priorities which contributes to practical outcomes and successfully delivered the Australia Awards Fellowship Program on Health, Climate change and Equity for 15 Pacific fellows. The next fellowship is to be delivered in November 2024 for 20 fellows.
18. The PCCC successfully delivered Pacific workshops for IPCC 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment reports in partnership with the Australian National University. Furthermore, funding has been secured for the development of coordination mechanism for IPCC engagement for the Pacific.
19. The PCCC continues to strengthen capacity of climate change policy makers, practitioners, private sector, and communities to develop, communicate and apply climate knowledge through training and learning.

**RO1.2: Minimise multiple pressures on vulnerable Pacific Island ecosystems by implementing ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation including responses to ocean acidification and sea level rise, to sustain biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services that support livelihoods and sustainable development.**

20. SPREP through the Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) supported scaled up adaptation pilots including ecosystem-based solutions through enhanced water security initiatives, watershed reforestations, riverbank stabilisation and riparian zone rehabilitation, and enhanced management plans at multiple levels in Government to support EbA solutions in Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste and Vanuatu. In addition, SPREP PACRES through the Principality of Monaco funding supported the Marine Ecosystem based Adaptation to Climate Change through coastal restorations via replanting of mangroves and fruit trees species and establishment of 1 coral nursery each in 9 villages (Saleaula, Satoalepai, Saipipi, Vaitoomuli, Siutu, Uafato, Ulutogia, Tafatafa, Tuanai) in Samoa. This project targeted key marine ecosystems (sea grass, coral reef and mangroves) to strengthen Samoa's coastal and community adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change.

21. SPREP through the Island and Ocean Ecosystem Programme continues to support implementation of ecosystem and nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation at regional, national and community levels. In a joint effort with SPC, the technical assistance under the Kiwa Initiative regional component is developing a range of tools and capacity-building activities on NbS for climate resilience, including an online course, a micro-qualification, a social media campaign, as well as tools and guidance to assess and integrate Gender Equity, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) and Human-Rights based approaches in nature-based solutions projects. SPREP technical assistance programme under Kiwa will be completed in mid-2025 and a second phase for the 2025-2030 period will be discussed with donors by the end of 2024. The €5.8 million Pacific Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change Phase 2 (PEBACC+) project, funded by the Kiwa Initiative and French GEF, is being implemented from 2023 to 2026 in Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna. PEBACC+ supports the development and mainstreaming of Ecosystem-based Adaptation approaches in partner countries and implement nature-based solutions to bring concrete resilience benefits to people and nature. Across all sites, the project is working very closely with national, provincial level partners and communities to implement prioritised EbA solutions, In Fiji, Solomon and Vanuatu, reforestation planting has commenced across 12 sites (FJ-10; VAN-1, SI-1) covering 19 ha total to date. Activities supporting mangrove rehabilitation has also started in Fiji and New Caledonia. ESRAM for Malaita, Solomon Island has also commenced while in New Caledonia will commence once the political situation in New Caledonia has stabilised. In a complementary manner, SPREP started to implement the Promoting Pacific Island Nature-based Solutions (PPIN) project, funded by NZ MFAT, in partnership with IUCN-ORO, SPC, and GGGI, working specifically on strengthening NbS mainstreaming in national frameworks and policies in the three partner countries of Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu.

**RO1.3: Enhance National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) capacity in weather forecasting, early warning systems, long-term projections, and improved climate services to support members' decision-making and coordination through the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC)**

22. The seventh Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-7) was successfully convened in August 2023 by the Government of Fiji. The PMC-7 was attended by 21 heads Meteorological services members of SPREP members, and the counterparts from the disaster and hydrology community. Overall, the PMC-7 brought in over 200 participants. SPREP implemented recommendation on the Weather Ready Pacific (WRP) to finalise the Governance and Implementation Plan. PMC Expert Panels are meeting to discuss their workplan and action. Progress is also made on the RCC logo and working to get their website developed under the CLIMSA project. The PMC-7 was held with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology Meeting (PMMM-3) which resulted in the Namaka Ministerial Declaration and the first Donor Engagement Meeting attended by over 30 development partners, UN organisations, CROP, technical partners and the private sector.

23. SPREP with the support of PMC members, development partners (Australia, New Zealand, JICA, UK) and technical agencies have made significant progress in the implementation of the WRP
- The PMC finalised the Weather Ready Programme (WRP) Governance and Implementation Plan which was presented to the 52<sup>nd</sup> Forum Leaders meeting.
  - Recruitment of the PMU progressed. The Manager role has been filled and five other positions to be filled in 2024.
  - WRP was reflected as one of the priorities of the Pacific Partnership for Prosperity at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Leaders Forum.
  - New Zealand has committed NZD 20 million to WRP and is supporting WRP to implement some of its activities. One of these activities is supporting WRP installation of the Weather Radar in Tonga.
  - JICA has committed its support through bilateral with the Government of Fiji to build the regional Instrument Calibration Centre and the Regional Training Centre. The 2 centres are planned be opened in 2027.
  - 3 forecasters from Samoa are now being trained at BOM to be professional operational forecasters.
  - UKMO provided GBP 300K to support the implementation of WRP activities in its inception phase.
  - Organised a joint session between WRP and Early Warnings for All (EW4ALL) attended by NMHSs, NDMO, NGO's (Red Cross Societies) to better coordinate activities in the region.
24. SPREP through Climate and Oceans Support Programme in the Pacific (COSPPac) project has established Traditional Knowledge in Samoa, Vanuatu, Tonga, Solomon Islands and Niue. The CREWS project further supported its expansion to Marshall Islands and Palau and linking it Community-based early warning systems.
25. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) Climate Information Services for Resilient Development Planning in Vanuatu Project FP035 (VanKIRAP) has develop a Vanuatu National Traditional Knowledge Indicators Booklet. This book highlights indigenous weather and climate forecasting knowledge in ni-Vanuatu. This knowledge is documented and shared so that it can be used effectively in disaster risk reduction particularly in remote and less accessible regions of Vanuatu as well as providing a national cultural resource.
26. SPREP through funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Climate Information Services for Resilient Development Planning in Vanuatu Project FP035 (VanKIRAP) is supporting Vanuatu with a weather radar system to further strengthen weather forecasting and early warning systems. The USD 3,190,000.00 contract has been awarded to Vaisala Pty Ltd to supply, install and commission the weather radar system by July 2025. A Rapid Climate Risk Assessment Framework and methodology for Vanuatu tourism sector has been developed and trialled on the Dive Industry. The framework and methodology address the need for climate risk assessment toolkit identified in the Vanuatu Sustainable Tourism Strategy 2021-2025.

27. The Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum has been successfully delivered and will continue to be supported by the EU-funded Climate Services and Related Application (ClimSA) Project for 2024 and 2025. This initiative aims to enhance climate prediction, support informed decision-making, build capacity, engage communities, strengthen regional cooperation, and contribute to sustainable development in the Pacific region.
28. The EU-funded Climate Services and Related Application (ClimSA) Project will continue to support the Regional Climate Centre (RCC) designation to transition from demonstration to operational status. The RCC will enhance the delivery of climate services across the region. An operational RCC will provide centralized, high-quality climate data and forecasts, enabling NMHS to improve their climate prediction and early warning systems. The RCC will facilitate capacity building through training and technical support, ensuring that meteorological staff are equipped with the latest knowledge and tools. By fostering regional cooperation and data sharing, the RCC will strengthen the collective ability of Pacific nations to address climate challenges, ultimately contributing to sustainable development and climate resilience in the region.
29. The EU-funded Climate Services and Related Application (ClimSA) aims to significantly enhance the climate services in Samoa, Kiribati, Tonga, and Nauru by investing in their observations network, technical, and IT infrastructure. This investment will focus on upgrading weather observation equipment, communication tools, and the hardware and software necessary for efficient data collection and dissemination. The initiative will also include the upgrade of observation sites and offices, ensuring they are equipped with tools and appropriate calibration kits as recommended.
30. The Climate and Oceans Support Programme for the Pacific (COSPPac-3) started in June 2023 following from COSPPac-2. SPREP through the COSPPac project continues to provide monthly climate bulletins to members, Early Action Rainfall Watch Bulletin (EAR Watch), provide advice and support on traditional knowledge and convene the monthly Ocean and Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF). COSPPac members celebrated the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May 2024.

**RO1.4: Support Pacific Island Members to access and manage climate change finances and their national accreditation processes.**

31. SPREP will continue to support countries in strengthening access to climate finance and technical delivery of NDA readiness and accreditation projects. SPREP, as a Delivery Partner, is currently implementing GCF Readiness projects in Niue, RMI, Nauru and a Regional GCF Readiness.
32. SPREP is also implementing three NAP projects (Tuvalu, Nauru and FSM) with Niue's NAP proposal expected to come online before end of the year.
33. SPREP will continue to support Members to access climate finance for implementation of national priorities – mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage set out in NAPs / JNAPs, NDCs and national development strategies. SPREP is currently developing nine climate change related projects to access bigger climate finance from the GCF, AF, and through bilateral sources.

**RO1.5: Support Pacific Island Members to develop policy responses to issues of loss and damage, and climate change and disaster induced population mobility.**

34. SPREP will continue to support PSIDS in strengthening their capacity and capability to address loss and damage. SPREP have successfully secured funding from German Federal Government and the Government of New Zealand to support Members in holding national dialogues to define loss and damage and initiate establishment of evidence base for loss and damage, develop a methodology to measure non-economic loss and damage, develop case studies on adaptation limits and experienced loss and damage, mainstream loss and damage across national and sectoral policies and strengthen national loss and damage focal points capacity. These projects will also enable SPREP to support countries in implementing pilot projects to test national responses to loss and damage and develop concept notes to access finance for implementation of national loss and damage priorities.
35. SPREP will continue to support PSIDS in their international climate change engagement on loss and damage under the UNFCCC process, the Loss and Damage Fund Board, the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage Advisory Committee and the WIM ExCom.

**Challenges and Opportunities:**

36. Access to climate finance remains a challenge for the Pacific. SPREP does not have the requisite capacity to develop projects at pace with needs of members but will continue to strengthen its internal capacity and see necessary support to assist the Pacific Island Countries and Territories in developing proposals to access finance for implementation of national climate change priorities.
37. Multiple donors and development partners are implementing project-based climate initiatives in the region which is affecting the capacity of national governments and communities to manage and lead the implementation of projects.
38. SPREP will explore the use of programmatic approach to alleviate project management limitations, strengthen regional and national absorptive capacity and facilitate growing of local market pool of experts. An additional climate finance resource personnel embedded in the Climate Change Programme to develop projects concepts and work with the PCU as well as support the climate finance priority of PSIDS in the UNFCCC remains a gap.

**Recommendation:**

39. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:
    - 1) **Note** and **endorse** progress in the implementation of activities under Regional Goal 1 for the biennial 2024-2025.
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