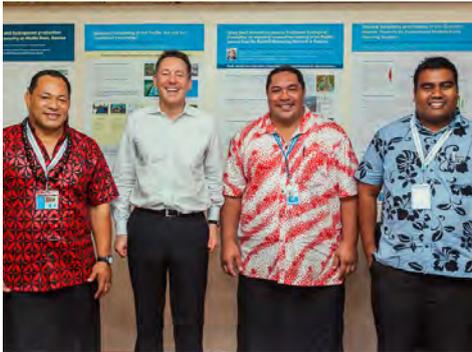




Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific

SEPTEMBER 2014



SIDS Conference: [L-R] Kosi Latu (SPREP), Senator Brett Mason (Aust Govt), Sunny Seuseu (Samoa Met Service) and Ueneta Toorua (Kiribati Met Service).

Manager's message

We are excited to see some really positive impacts of COSPPac across the Pacific. Some of these were highlighted by Sunny Seuseu (Samoa Meteorological Service) and Ueneta Toorua (Kiribati Meteorological Service), who attended the recent Small Island Developing States Conference in Apia in September. Sunny presented on the practical uses of ocean data for climate prediction, the collaborative development of the malaria early warning system in the Solomon Islands and the development of the water storage forecasts for the Afulilo Reservoir. The latter supports an important hydropower scheme in Samoa. Ueneta shared his knowledge about the application of COSPPac's sea level monitoring and tidal prediction products for disaster preparedness in Kiribati.

The Climate Adaptation 2014 – NCCARF conference on the Gold Coast is currently underway, where participants from each of the Pacific Island Meteorological Services will present posters and deliver brief talks. This is a great opportunity to develop and practice skills in communicating climate information to an international audience. Following the conference, participants will partake in training in developing Seasonal Climate Outlooks, the use and application of SCOPIC and the newly developed Drought Module. More to come about this event in the next issue.

Also, keep an eye out for the newly re-vamped COSPPac website, which will enhance the accessibility of information and application of products for our Pacific stakeholders. Coming soon!

Until then,
Janita Pahalad

Contact

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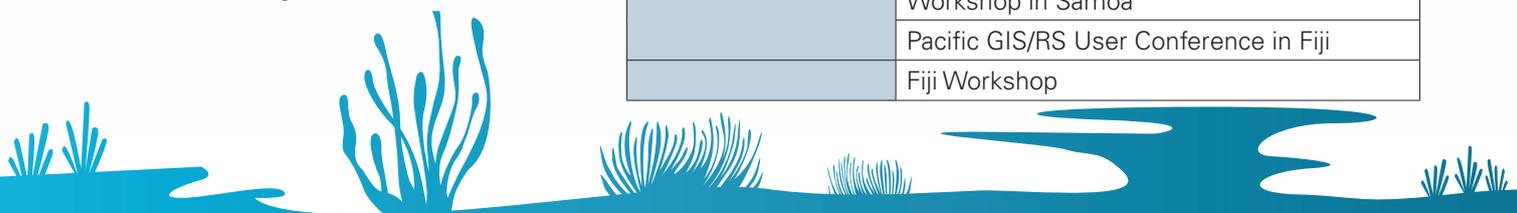
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The COSPPac team and our partners throughout the Pacific will be very busy over the coming months, with many exciting and high-profile events occurring throughout the region.

Upcoming events	TK Data Collection and Storage Workshop - Solomon Islands
	Tides and Oceans Conversation Series
	Hydropower Climate Application Project—Workshop in Samoa
	Pacific GIS/RS User Conference in Fiji
	Fiji Workshop





Maunaa Eria, Irano Atimatang and Thomas Zackious (KMS staff) using the website.

The new Kiribati Meteorological Service website has gone live!

By Kamaitia Rubetaake and Ueneta Toorua (KMS)

The new KMS website has been developed to provide stakeholders with better access to important weather and climate information. The new website provides access to forecast and warning products such as weather and marine bulletins, Tarawa tidal predictions and tidal calendars, as well as tropical cyclone warnings. There is a valuable climate section too, which showcases the Kiribati Climate Outlook, the monthly average rainfall readings and information about the current and future climate.

While still under development, the website went live in early 2014 and has received extremely positive feedback from stakeholders such as government departments, the public and schools. Previously the information was available through email, workshop presentations and stakeholders visiting the KMS. Stakeholders have said that having this information available on the website is a lot more convenient, although they still very much appreciate the opportunity for face-to-face interaction with the KMS. We will continue to develop our website based on the development of our services and feedback from stakeholders. The link to the website is here www.met.gov.ki.



Ihuga community notice board, Herold bay Community, Futuna Island, Vanuatu.

Sharing climate information in Vanuatu

By Philip Malsale (Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department, VMGD)

In July, the VMGD staff held an ENSO Stakeholder Briefing to share information about the major climate events and drivers in the region during the previous month and how this explains what Vanuatu had experienced. We also looked at what Vanuatu can expect over next three months—particularly the possibility of an El Niño event occurring, though its progress has weakened. The briefings are a part of the VGMD Communication, Engagement and Partnership Strategy, which the Climate Communications Strategy is also aligned with.

We are also working with CARE International to provide important climate information to communities throughout Vanuatu. Information about the likelihood of ENSO and how this may impact their communities has been displayed on community boards. Feedback from the communities, including at the recent Futuna Island Climate Change Adaptation Festival, has indicated that our updates need to be less technical and to use more simple language and pictures to communicate the information. We will use stakeholder feedback to guide and adapt the way we communicate climate information to our stakeholders. We really enjoy engaging with our stakeholders to better understand their needs for relevant and applicable climate information.



[L-R] Nover Juria, Elisabeth Thompson, Meelina Ailesi & Simon McGree (L-R) during the M&A program.

Seasonal Forecasting in the Pacific— COSPPac Mentoring & Attachments Program

The COSPPac mentoring program launched into full swing during July and August, with five participants from the Pacific Meteorological Services (PMS) spending two weeks at the Bureau of Meteorology working on developing and communicating seasonal forecasts in their countries. Noel and Max from the Solomon Islands participated in the July program, with Bates (Cook Islands), Meelina (Tuvalu) and Nover (Marshall Islands) participating in the August program.

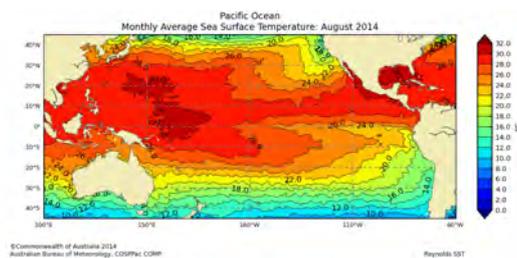
The program covered topics identified by the Pacific Meteorological Services as key development priorities, which included improving the understanding of the climate drivers in the Pacific, basic statistics, application of SCOPIC (statistical forecasting tool) and POAMA products and the COSPPac Monthly Climate Bulletin. Participants were trained in developing and communicating Seasonal Climate Outlooks (SCO) for their country, many of which are still in the early stages of development and dissemination to country stakeholders. Noel shared his experience with us about the program, indicating that, “It has been beneficial to my professional development and provided me with the opportunity to build my competency. This has included learning about the tools and information required to produce a seasonal outlook and monthly weather bulletin”

COSPPac will continue to provide support to the PMS in the development and communication of their SCO through participation in the monthly COSPPac Online Climate Outlook Forums (OCOF), a focussed SCO training workshop on 3 October 2014 (Gold Coast, Australia) and ongoing support through individual country requests.

Monthly COSPPac Bulletin—Revamped

The COSPPac team are excited to have recently re-launched the monthly COSPPac Bulletin in collaboration with our partners in the Pacific. The Bulletin is a web portal, which delivers climate and ocean monitoring and prediction information relevant to the tropical southwest Pacific. It includes diagnostics of ENSO, the Madden-Julian Oscillation, ocean temperature, cloud and rainfall patterns; as well as tropical cyclone information and seasonal outlooks for the coming three months. We are hoping that the Bulletin provides a single point of access to much of the information our Pacific Island Partners may need for routine climate services.

COSPPac will also continue to distribute the bulletin via email to the Met Services. The latest edition of the Bulletin can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/cosppac/comp/bulletin/index.shtml.



Example of the information provided in the monthly COSPPac bulletin—monthly average sea surface temperature map for August 2014



Participants at the workshop including Tuvalu's Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga and His Hon. Vete Sakaio, Acting Minister for Communications and Transport (front row).

Tuvalu Met Service talks climate services with stakeholders

The Tuvalu Meteorological Service (TMS) worked with the COSPPac team to deliver a Climate and Oceans Science and Services Stakeholder Workshop in Funafuti in September. The workshop provided an opportunity for stakeholders to learn more about Tuvalu's climate, the services which the TMS provide and to further enhance stakeholder engagement between TMS staff and their valued stakeholders. The workshop highlighted the challenges of communicating technical scientific terms and concepts, and was a great opportunity for stakeholders to work together to brainstorm solutions.

COSPPac also delivered three days of training to the TMS, covering topics such as climate science, statistics, SCOPIC and communication and stakeholder engagement. A series of interactive activities were used to support the learning and uptake of the information, including the newly adapted Red Cross game called Paying for Predictions—Drought Version, which looks at the challenges of decision-making relating to weather and climate in a fun and interactive platform. A great week of sharing information, participation and working towards enhancing the delivery of climate services by the TMS.



Stakeholders at the Climate Change Dialogue

RMI's First National Climate Change Dialogue

By Nover Juria (RMI, National Weather Service)

The people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) recently came together at the RMI Government's First National Climate Change Dialogue in Majuro, to share their stories about the impacts of climate change on their lives. Mr Reggie White from the National Weather Service set the scene, by presenting information about climate variability and the climate drivers that effect RMI and the climate change projections and possible impacts for the Marshall Islands. The host of the event, the RMI Government, recognises the importance of providing the opportunity for stakeholders, such as the weather service to explain the climate change situation to the public and to give the public an opportunity to communicate their views about addressing the challenges of climate change and its impacts.

The event was delivered in Marshallese and was a combination of presentations and discussions amongst a wide range of stakeholders which included, the President, Members of Cabinet, the Council of Iroij, Mayors, Members of the Nitijela and senior government employees, as well as women, youth and students, elders, businesses, church groups, subsistence farmers and fishermen. The Dialogue was also broadcast on the local radio to support the sharing of information to the broader population. The Dialogue was well received and the information shared by the stakeholders is highly valued by the government for the development of future policies to address climate change.



Stakeholders looking for typical mosquito larval habitats in North Guadalcanal.

Solomon Islands malaria monitoring and early warning system – testing to begin

Some fantastic progress has been made towards the development of the climate-based malaria monitoring and early warning system in the Solomon Islands. Lloyd Tahani (Solomon Islands Meteorological Service) and Albino Bobogare (National Vector Borne Disease Control Program) have been working with the COSPPac team over the past few years to develop the system, which will be used to predict malaria occurrence and distribution in the Solomon Islands.

During the three-day workshop in Honiara, the project team launched the pilot phase, shared new findings about the relationship between climate and malaria in the Solomon Islands and malaria risk maps, and installed the experimental monitoring and early warning system for North Guadalcanal and Central Province, which is to be tested during the next malaria season. Stakeholders provided highly valuable feedback about the practical application of the maps, suggested product development and how the system will be used and applied. This valuable information will be integrated into the final development of the tools

Representatives from the PNG Weather Service and VMGD also attended, to learn more about the system and its possible application in their countries. The system is expected to be run in experimental mode this wet season, with the aim of being fully operational by mid-late 2015. Once operational, it will support the improvement of malaria control and response strategies, such as quicker response times and more effective targeted malaria interventions in the Solomon Islands.

Tides and Oceans Conversation Series

Over the next six months, three meetings will be held around the Pacific to identify what sea level and oceans information, products and services stakeholders in the Pacific see significant benefit in having and using. Stakeholders at the meetings will be invited to share their knowledge, understanding and use of the current products and services available to them and provide significant input into the application and uptake of the COSPPac sea level and ocean services products, which include the soon-to-be-released ocean portal, the tidal calendars and real-time sea level display. Regional meetings will be held in Hawaii, New Zealand and Fiji in the coming months, with country workshops to follow in early 2015.



Tuvalu Tide Gauge, Funafuti.





Rosy Pulehetoa-Mitiepo.

Rosy Pulehetoa-Mitiepo — Niue Meteorological Service

Rosy Pulehetoa-Mitiepo is the Scientific Officer for the Niue Meteorological Service. Rosy grew up in Niue and did her University degrees in New Zealand and Fiji, as well as receiving WMO Class II as an Assistant Forecaster in Australia. Work experience at the Niue Meteorological Service in her final year of school, paved the way for a career in this field, with Rosy working in a number of roles at the Niue Meteorological Service over the past 13 years. Rosy previously worked as the Coordinator of the Second National Communication to the UNFCCC. She learned a lot about project management and climate change negotiations during this time. Rosy really enjoys contributing to her community through her roles as a Girls Brigade Officer, a Sunday School Teacher and a member of the Federated Council of Women in her village of Hakupu. Rosy also teaches English reading to primary school children in her village, through the NGO, Child of the South Pacific (SCP). Rosy is looking forward to progressing other joint projects with COSPPac, including the installation of the tide gauge and the traditional knowledge project.



Jodie Kane.

Jodie Kane—COSPPac

Jodie Kane began working with COSPPac in early August, after spending two years working with the Pacific–Australia Climate Change Science and Adaptation Planning Program (PACCSAP) as the Capacity Development Advisor. Jodie’s background is in environmental science and international development and she has previously lived and worked in the UK and Thailand. During her time in Thailand, Jodie’s role at the International Union for Conservation and Nature (IUCN) saw her working on forest landscape restoration and water resource management projects in the north and south of Thailand. Having grown up in Warrnambool, a coastal Victorian town known affectionately by locals as ‘The Bool’, Jodie loves the beach. She bought her first surfboard at the young age of 35 and is looking forward to getting it wet!



Australian Government

Tell us about your work on climate and sea level

Down here in Melbourne, we’d love to hear about the work you are doing in the sunny islands. If you have attended a terrific climate or sea level conference, done some interesting work with stakeholders, or even just broken a climate record recently, drop us an email to let us know about it! COSPPac_CDC_Unit@bom.gov.au.

