

Third Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-3)

20-23 July 2015
Nuku'alofa
The Kingdom of Tonga

Agenda Item 17.2(b): The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the meeting of the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris

Purpose

1. To **update** Council on the preparations which SPREP is undertaking to support Pacific Island member countries, who are all Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to prepare for the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to be held in Paris, in December (1 - 11th) this year.

Background

2. COP 21 will be held in Paris, France from December 1 to 11th. Pacific Island Countries are all Parties to this Convention, and will also be invited to take part in regional preparatory meetings in Paris, directly ahead of these meeting dates, including a meeting for members of the Least Developed Country (LDC) group (week of November 23rd); Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) (week of November 23rd) and the Group of 77 and China (November 28th and 29th).
3. A key outcome of the Paris COP will be the adoption of a new 'protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force', which will come into effect in 2020. While Parties have yet to agree on what an 'instrument of legal force' means, all 14 Pacific Island Countries have called for the final outcome to be a legally rectifiable protocol.
4. To date, key issues that Pacific Island Countries have asked that the Paris outcome include the following elements:
 - The Paris agreement be in the form of a legally binding protocol.
 - The Paris agreement ensure that mitigation ambition (i.e the reduction of greenhouse gases) be high enough to ensure the long term sustainability of all Pacific Island countries.

- The agreement ensure the provision of technical and financial support for Pacific Island countries to address climate change impacts, through adaptation and capacity building.
- The agreement should include a reference to support to enable countries to address loss and damage from the adverse impacts of climate change.
- The agreement should also provide support for Pacific Island countries to mitigate climate change, and support the movement towards low carbon economies.
- Any support mechanisms (finance, capacity building or technology) should take into account the special needs and capacities of small island developing states.

5. Given the high priority that Pacific Island member countries have placed on this upcoming COP, SPREP has taken the lead in developing a series of actions to support PIC's who are parties to this Convention in their preparations for this event. Some of these support activities are listed in the table below:

Date	Pacific Voyage Preparatory Activity
February 2015	SPREP delegation report from COP 20
February 2015	On-site technical support provided by SPREP team to Pacific Island Countries to the UNFCCC ADP Session, (February 9 - 13 th , Geneva) Presentation made on behalf of the Pacific region to the UNFCCC Structured Expert Dialogue (SED) on the Review of the Long Term Temperature Goal (Geneva, 9 - 10 th February)
May 15 th , 2015	Pacific Island Countries Preparatory Meeting, for Pacific Island Country Parties to the UNFCCC, ahead of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body and ADP sessions, Apia, Samoa (funded through the Government of Switzerland, in partnership with the Climate Analytics High Level Support Mechanism and Pacific Island Forum Secretariat)
June 2015	On-site technical support provided to Pacific Island Countries to the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies and ADP sessions, Bonn, Germany (1-11 June).
July 2015	North Pacific (Palau, Marshall Islands and Federated States of Micronesia) negotiators training meeting (July 13 th to 15 th , Pohnpei, Micronesia, funded by GIZ in partnership with SPREP, Climate Analytics, and Pacific Island Forum Secretariat).
July 2015	Pacific Consultations for the Green Climate Fund. July 27 th - 29 th , Nadi Fiji (organized by GCF, in partnership with PIFS and SPREP).
September 2015	UNFCCC ADP meeting, Bonn, Germany (31 August to 4 th September)
September 2015	Briefing for Pacific Island Leaders and Ministers, at the Pacific Island Forum Leaders Meeting, organised by SPREP in partnership with PIFS. (Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, 9 th - 10 th September)
October 2015	UNFCCC ADP meeting, Bonn Germany (19 th to 23 rd October)

November 2015	Briefing for Pacific Island focal points on the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN), Apia, Samoa, November 2 nd to 3 rd (to be hosted by SPREP, in partnership with UNEP and the CTCN).
November 2015	High Level Support Mechanism two day briefing for Pacific Island Country Ministers (from PICs who are Parties to the UNFCCC) attending COP 21 (Apia, Samoa, November 4 th to 5 th , in partnership with Climate Analytics).
November 2015	One day Pacific Island preparatory meeting - to be held on site, in Paris, for Pacific Island Country negotiators attending COP 21 (date to be confirmed (week of November 23 rd , Paris, France).
December 2015	Onsite technical support to be provided to Pacific Island countries at COP 21, which will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced written briefings to be prepared • Technical and policy support on site • Pacific media team • Pacific Side event - on strengthening Pacific Island climate change services • Other side events, to be confirmed • Pacific exhibition booth - as a venue to show case Pacific success stories on climate change - in connection with a proposed Islands Pavilion • SPREP Youth Ambassador to attend COP 21

6. SPREP will be working in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders to deliver the above work programme, which will include but not be limited to Pacific CROP agencies (USP, PIFS, SPC); Pacific civil society groups, and international organizations such as Climate Analytics and Independent Diplomat. Additional support has also been provided by donors such as the Government of Switzerland, GIZ and has also been sought from the Government of France.

Recommendations

7. The Meeting is invited to:

- **Take note** of the information in this paper.
- Those in position to do so are also invited to provide additional resources to support SPREP's work or the participation of PIC PMC members in the COP in December.