



WWF SOUTH PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME | QUARTERLY ENEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2005 ISSUE

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WWF Boosts Pacific Island Attendance In Montreal

One of the factors hindering effective Pacific participation at international climate meetings, or any international meetings for that matter, is the small size of national delegations to these meetings. To ameliorate this problem, WWF, through the EC funded climate change project, funded the participation of one government and one civil society representative from the Cook Islands, at the 11th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 1st Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, in Montreal, Canada, this year. WWF expects to increase attendance next year to include Tuvalu as well.

This is a capacity building exercise for these participants. At the meeting, they will be expected to observe and learn how UN meetings work, the roles of different regional groupings at UN meetings, follow agenda items of national interest and later share their experiences and advice with national climate change stakeholders at national workshops early next year.

» [More on the Montreal Conference](#)



VOICE FROM THE PACIFIC:

Fijian Community Member Speaks Again - This Time In Japan!



In our last issue we wrote about WWF South Pacific's very own Climate Witness, Penina Moce, who spoke for her first time to an international audience in Argentina. At this most recent symposium, Penina gave a speech on how climate change has changed her life, and that of her fellow villagers on the island of Kabara, in the Lau Group of islands, Fiji.

» [More on Penina's trip to Japan](#)

New Climate Projects Formalised Between WWF South Pacific And The Cook Islands, Tuvalu



A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Cook Islands National Environment Service, and WWF South Pacific Programme, thus kick starting the Europe Aid funded project- UNFCCC: Facilitating Implementation and Participation in the Pacific.



Climate Change Team : Diane McFadzien (Regional Climate Change Coordinator) and Jyotishma Rajan-Naicker (Climate Change Campaigner) work together at the Regional office in Suva, Fiji.

Email us at climatechange@wwfpacific.org.fj



The Climate team is lucky enough to have **Michaela from Berlin, Germany** as an intern for three months. Michaela is looking after the Short Story and Photo Competition as well as writing stories for climate change.

CALENDAR

Photo and Short Story Competition

Look here for entry details. Deadline for submissions to this competition is **15 January 2006**.

Read about the [Negotiations Training Workshop](#) recently held in November 2005.



CLIMATE WITNESS EVENTS

Penina Speaks in Japan!

Read Penina's incredible story to the captive Japanese audience.

Programme

» **South Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP)** What other regional organizations are doing about climate change in the Pacific

» **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** United Nations Climate Change Secretariat website, with full copies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Kyoto Protocol.



The MOU was signed on Thursday, 6th October 2005, by the Director of the Cook Islands National Environment Service, Mr. Vaitoti Tupa, and the Conservation Director (WWF SPP), Ms. Kesaia Tabunakawai. The Cook Islands is one of the countries that WWF SPP will be working with in this project.

Tuvalu, as a low lying atoll country is amongst the most vulnerable countries to climate change, and is already suffering impacts like flooding from rising seas that is destroying their food gardens, roads and coastal infrastructure. The WWF South Pacific Climate Change Programme is implementing parallel projects in Tuvalu and the Cook Islands to increase climate change awareness amongst communities, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and governments, and to enhance negotiations capacity of government and NGO officials at international climate change meetings. To this end, WWF has also signed a MOU on 30th November with the Director of the Tuvalu Department of Environment, Mr. Enate Evi Tauaa to enable progress towards this project.



The MOUs will enable project activities to take place, to strengthen the participation of the Cook Islands and Tuvalu, at international climate meetings (UNFCCC).

» Read more about the agreement with the Cook Islands [in the signed MOU](#)

Short term Job Opportunity » [Climate Impacts Researcher](#)

Planting Trees To Save Coral Reefs From Climate Change

Communities around the Pacific are very dependent upon their natural resources for their very survival – with our marine resources being no exception. Unfortunately, the very reefs that we depend upon for not only our daily food but also our tourism industry are increasingly under threat – including from climate change.

WWF has embarked upon a new project, in Fiji, to develop a methodology for increasing the resilience of our mangrove and coral reef systems from the threat of climate change

Mangroves are important in that they act not only as breeding and nesting grounds for many marine species, but they also offer a natural protection for coastal areas, from storm surges. They also help protect near by coral reefs, by filtering out pollutants from land that would otherwise harm the reef.

WWF will be working with partner organizations and Fiji communities to conduct scientific research into how mangroves can protect coral reefs from bleaching events, caused by climate change. The project team will work to develop strategies for increasing the resilience of vulnerable mangroves and coral reef ecosystems, to climate change. These strategies will be shared not only with other conservation managers, but also to communities who rely on such ecosystems – enabling them to strengthen their resilience against global warming.

Unfortunately, such resilience building measures alone can not stop the threat of global climate change – but will only buy additional time, for fragile ecosystems. That is why on top of this we must still push for the movement away from fossil fuel driven economies, towards a more sustainable future.

Read more about the [WWF-GEF \(Global Environment Facility\) Mangrove Project](#) »

Vanuatu Resettlement Story



While industrialized countries like USA and Australia continue to deny the existence of climate change, a community in the Pacific has been the global first to be relocated to escape encroaching seas.

A settlement named Lateau in the Torba Province, Vanuatu had to relocate to higher ground due to constant flooding and coastal erosion of 2-3m every year. Lateau was a low lying settlement (only 5 meters above the high water mark) and faced frequent inundation by storm surges and high tides.

Due to severe water shortages on the island Lateau was on, villagers could not move to higher grounds. To best avoid flooding, they built their homes on piles of limestone rocks and firestoves in kitchens were also raised above the ground. Village grounds were always muddy and slippery and many children suffered malaria and water-borne diseases.

A Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) sponsored climate

...perspectives ...



Short Story

Competition: [Submit your stories and photos NOW!](#)

Is Climate Change affecting you or your community? Add your story to our growing collection of [Climate Witness accounts on our website.](#)

» [Send us your Climate Witness Stories](#)



ON THE GROUND REPORTS

Reporting from the ground, is Michaela, who visited Kabara in

November.

» [Field Trip to Kabara](#)



Reporting from Rarotonga, in the Cook Islands, is Imogen Ingram

» [Fossil Fuels - A Double-edged sword](#)

for the Pacific

PUBLICATIONS

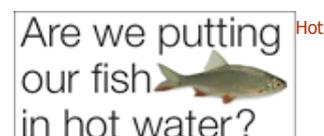
Annual Report 2005



Rising Seas - Rising Determination

Pacific Islands are already experiencing the impacts of global climate change, including sea level rise and coral bleaching, to name just a few. Unless urgent actions are taken to reduce global emissions of climate changing gases, the very future of these children and others like them from around the Pacific will be threatened.

» [Email us](#) for a printed or electronic copy - and receive a FREE Climate Change Poster!



change adaptation project, (implemented at the regional level through the South Pacific Environment Programme) came to the village's assistance. The project provided them 6 water tanks with 6,000 litres of capacity, as well as grooved roofing iron to harvest rainwater, which is the only source of freshwater on the island. With these water saving materials, the community was able to relocate to higher grounds.

The new settlement, now name Lirak, has benefited two-fold from this project. It no longer suffers flooding caused by rising seas caused by sea level rise, and has abundant water to sustain itself.

The CIDA funded project, which is called the "Capacity Building for the Development of Adaptation Measures in Pacific Island Countries" (CBDAMPIC) also funded similar work in the Cook islands (provided for increased community water storage capacity), Samoa (worked to protect vulnerable coastal communities from the effects of accelerated coastal erosion) and Fiji (communities also received assistance with ensuring access to fresh drinking water).

» More Stories: [UN environmental body hails relocation of islanders threatened by climate change](#)

Tuvalu Declared Environmental Refugee

A recent study by the United Nations University's Institute of Environment and Human Security identified the people of Tuvalu as 'environment refugees'.

According to this study, environmental catastrophes like rising sea levels and associated flooding, which Tuvalu is already experiencing, as well as desertification and increased cyclone frequency could displace 50 million people, globally, by 2010.

The institute urged international acceptance of this concept of Environmental Refugees, and that these refugees be granted the same aid and assistance granted to people displaced by political conflicts.

By 2055, the number of people forced to leave their homes for safer areas, because of climate and weather related events, will increase six-fold to 200m (Myers, 1994). The number of people displaced by environmental disasters is greater than those displaced by war (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, 2001).

Friends of the Earth (FOE) Australia, are an NGO working on climate change. In the past they have worked with a number of NGOs from the Pacific to highlight the impacts of climate change faced by Pacific people at the international level.

The FOE have recently developed a series of factsheets, called The Citizens Guide to Climate Refugees to raise awareness, and to encourage activism on this issue. This [guide can be accessed online](#).

Hungry and Gasping for Air

Read about how fish are increasingly threatened by global warming. [A new report](#) from WWF International.



Climate Change Posters Climate change is often seen as a very complex problem, and usually requires a lot of scientific jargon to describe how it works. To simplify the problem for younger people, WWF commissioned Fijian artist, John Roberston, to design posters on Climate Change.

» [Download the poster](#)

» [Order a printed copy](#) : these are available in English and Fijian.

ONLINE



C A M P A I G N

The WWF Powerswitch! campaign has started an internet based forum for people who want to tell others about the changes they are seeing in the natural environment as a result of climate change.

» Have your say and [tell people from around the world how climate change is affecting you](#).

Friends of the Earth Climate Refugee Project

The FOE have recently developed a series of factsheets, called [The Citizens Guide to Climate Refugees](#) to raise awareness, and to encourage activism on this issue.