

Pacific regional perspectives on NWP

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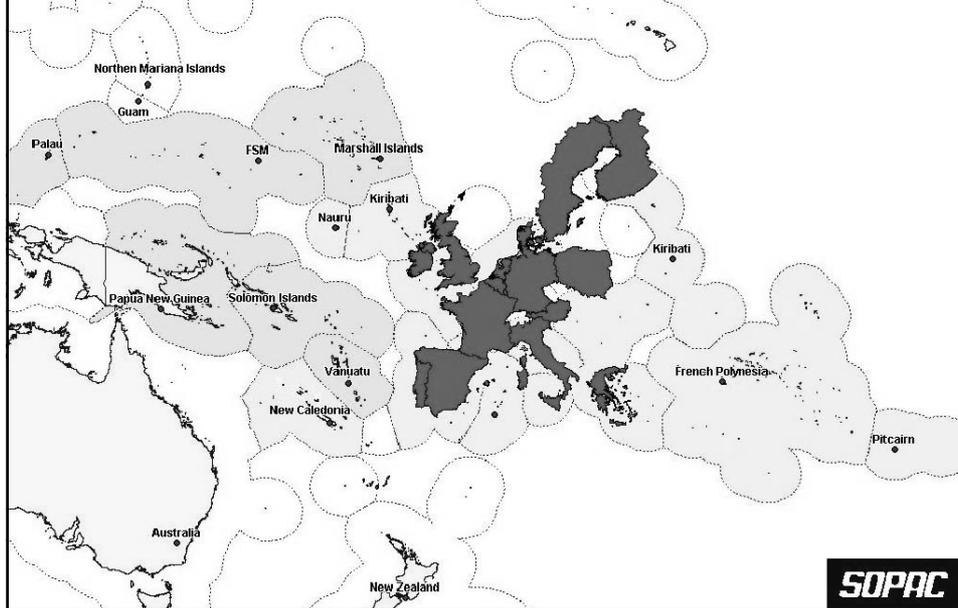


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Coverage - the Pacific SIDS

- 14 Independent SIDS covered by this presentation – Cook Is., Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Is., Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Is., Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
- Although work by SPREP also involves the 7 non-self-governing territories of the Pacific, except Pitcairn
- Supported by our Members Australia, France, New Zealand and USA

EU (-98) juxtaposed on Pacific



Context of Pacific climate change

- The scientists, economists and engineers etc through IPCC have debated their issues – now consensus in the 4th Assessment Report
- Climate change is caused by humans, early action can achieve good results at low costs (1% global GDP) and is physically feasible – lack of action will cause damages of 25-30% of gGDP
- But action needs to start soon, past emissions commit us to some change as shown by graphs
- Need to begin peaking by 2020 to achieve lower increases in temperature – or get to 3-5° world

SPREP cooperation with NWP

- Grounded in PIFACC, need for adaptation and to strengthen our knowledge of climate change
- NWP is one building block required for enhanced adaptation implementation
- Close fit with other work in support of the RMSD, Met Services, PI-GCOS and GOOS
- Will provide add-ons to PACC-II, etc.

Planned SPREP activities of relevance

- Enhancing climate change information flows (portal, digests, updates, briefings)
- Science relevant information being generated by PACC, PIGGAREP – NWP can enhance their next phases
- Regional costs of climate change study
- FCCC negotiations are still ongoing, NWP results are being made use of
- Training for media and on negotiations skills will continue in 2010 – need for science component

Some caveats and concerns

- When science says one thing, but community perceptions are quite different - better explanations will be needed to preserve credibility – issue of TC frequency
- Enhanced data collection systems will be needed, and could clarify caveats (absent data)
- Simplifying the scientific messages is helpful, but must not become simplistic – fine balance, and a lot of trust will be placed on the communicators
- Modelling should inform decision making, not determine or form decisions, with embedded assumptions having been explained

Next steps

- SPREP will continue to interact with NWP and other partners
- SPREP will work with other climate change teams, ultimately working towards a Pacific Climate Change Portal
- Climate change projects will continue to be implemented and planned with PICs
- Pacific Climate Change Roundtable working groups will be formed during the year – science component will be important
- SPREP science and awareness components will also be worked on in the coming year

Conclusions

- NWP has begun to address many scientific gaps of relevance to the region, and SPREP has made a good start in seeking to communicate the initial findings to the PICs – different modes for groups
- Close interaction with the PICs as the work continues will be essential
- Implications of the science must be communicated well, and to a wide range of stakeholders
- Many questions still remain

Thank you

