



Fifth Pacific Oceans Pacific Climate Change Conference

Theme: Amplifying One Pacific Voice for Action on 1.5 °C to Stay Alive

*14 – 18 September 2026
Honiara, Solomon Islands*

Organised by:

- Solomon Islands National University (SINU)
- National University of Samoa (NUS)
- Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) - Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
- Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington (VUW)
- Solomon Islands Government/Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (SIG/MECDM)

In Partnership with

- Earth Sciences

1.0 Background

The Pacific Oceans Pacific Climate Change Conference (POPCCC) is a Pacific-owned, Pacific-led event organized to provide an informative and collaborative Pacific research platform for academics, researchers, climate change practitioners, private sector, civil society, and students to share their research findings with Pacific based and global researchers.

Previous editions of this conference were hosted in Wellington, New Zealand (2016 and 2018), online in 2020 and most recently held in Apia, Samoa in 2024. The Pacific Oceans Climate Change Conference is a multi-disciplinary conference, bringing together experts from the private, public, and civil society, and a variety of participants from the arts, faith communities, industry, and other backgrounds to look at ways where, together, we can all play our part to address climate change. The conference is a platform to examine the persistent challenges faced by Pacific Island countries in developing and improving adaptation strategies and ensuring easier access to finance.

A call for abstract on climate change research papers and projects being implemented in the Pacific was the convening medium to draw participants sharing their research findings, solutions challenges and opportunities.

The Pacific Climate Change Centre hosted at SPREP being a co-convenor forges practical and innovative solutions to address climate change and engages with leading Pacific researchers and institutions to accelerate climate action aligned to its lead role on supporting applied research



and science to services aligned to the needs of Pacific communities through the **Pacific Climate Change Research Roadmap 2025-2030**, as the key regional climate change research guide for the Pacific. The roadmap identified priority research areas to strengthen climate resilience in the Pacific by addressing knowledge gaps in adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage. It emphasizes collaborative, regionally relevant research that informs policy and practice, supports evidence-based decision-making aligned to national and regional climate strategies.

2.0 Conference Theme

Climate resilient development requires a combination of ambitious action on mitigation and sustainable and equitable adaptation solutions for those impacts that cannot be avoided. As many Pacific nations and territories will reach the limits of adaptation at 1.5C of global warming, the theme of the Fifth Pacific Ocean Pacific Climate Change Conference is “Amplifying One Pacific voice on 1.5 to stay alive”. This underscores the urgent need to avoid exceeding this threshold, which would overwhelm adaptation capacities and cause irreversible impacts to the biodiversity, livelihoods, and ways of lives of the Pacific Communities from sea level rise, extreme weather events and ocean acidification.

The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (2022) reinforces this urgency, warning that without immediate and large-scale action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and investing in adaptation strategies, the world will face catastrophic consequences. For the Pacific, the difference between 1.5°C and 2°C of warming is profound—2°C will surpass the region’s ability to adapt, threatening its very survival.

This year’s POPCCC will emphasize research and solutions that make the 1.5°C goal feasible, aligned with the Paris Agreement pathways. By focusing on evidence-based strategies, the conference also aims to strengthen regional resilience and advocate for Pacific’s unified voice in global climate action towards greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions targets. There will also be a focus on evidence-based adaptation strategies and solutions needed to build community resilience to committed climate change risks and impacts that will unavoidable.

3.0 Key Participants and Audience

The Conference will bring together academics, practitioners, policy makers and experts, private, public, youth and civil society actors, and a wide variety of participants from the arts, churches, industry and other distinct backgrounds to shed light on the knowledge and interpretations related to the rapid changes observed in the region, as well as any divergence between the perceptions of local actors and the dominant scientific discourse.



4.0 Conference format, Objectives, Thematic areas and Outcomes

4.1 Conference Format

The conference will consist of a mix of plenary and parallel sessions, panel discussions and poster presentations. A series of workshops before and after the conference will also take place focusing on specific themes. The conference will adopt an in person “format.

4.2 Key Objectives

1. Provide a Platform for Pacific Researchers

Create an inclusive space for Pacific-based researchers and practitioners to showcase their research and innovations.

2. Advance Research for 1.5°C Goal

Highlight research and solutions that support emission pathways aligned with the Paris Agreement and make the 1.5°C target achievable.

3. Advance Climate Resilient Development.

Highlight research on and of implementation equitable and sustainable adaptation strategies and solutions to manage the risks and impacts that can't be avoided by mitigation

4. Strengthen Regional Collaboration

Foster partnerships among Pacific researchers, policymakers, civil society and global experts to share knowledge and best practices.

5. Bridge Knowledge Gaps

Address and identify knowledge gaps in priority areas in adaptation, mitigation, and loss & damage outlined in the Pacific Climate Change Research Roadmap 2025–2030.

6. Influence Policy and Action

Translate research into actionable and practical recommendation to guide national and regional climate policies and global advocacy.

7. Empower Pacific Voices

Amplify the region's perspectives in global climate negotiations and action.

4.3 Conference Topics

- Climate Science and Impacts: Presenting the latest scientific findings on climate change in the
- Pacific, including sea-level rise, ocean acidification, and the intensification of extreme weather events.



- **Adaptation and Resilience:** Discussing strategies and initiatives for building resilience in Pacific communities, such as coastal protection, disaster preparedness, and sustainable agriculture.
- **Mitigation Efforts:** Highlighting efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including renewable energy projects, conservation initiatives, and sustainable transportation solutions.
- **Loss and damage** – the irreversible and unavoidable impacts of climate change, existential risks, Economic Losses and Non-Economic Loss and Damage (NELD)
- **Policy and Governance:** Analyzing the role of national and international policies in addressing
- **Climate Change in the Pacific** and discussing the challenges and opportunities for law and policy development.
- **Community Engagement:** Showcasing successful community-driven climate initiatives and their importance of involving local communities in decision-making processes.
- **Indigenous Knowledge and Traditions:** Recognising the importance of indigenous knowledge and traditional practices in adapting to climate change and preserving cultural heritage.
- **International Collaboration:** Exploring partnerships between Pacific nations and global organisations, as well as promoting solidarity and mutual support.
- **Economic and Social Impacts:** Assessing the economic and social consequences of climate change in the Pacific, including impacts on livelihoods, food security, and health.

4.4 Expected Outcomes

1. **Showcase of Pacific Research**

A visible platform where Pacific researchers present research findings and solutions addressing climate challenges.

2. **Policy Recommendations**

Practical, evidence-based briefs and technical, policy or legislative recommendations for national and regional governments to integrate research into climate strategies.

3. **Strengthened Networks**

New partnerships among researchers, policymakers, civil society, and global experts to foster collaboration beyond the event.

4. **Capacity Building**

Enhanced skills for Pacific scholars and practitioners through knowledge-sharing sessions.

5. **Knowledge Products**

Publication of conference report, thematic papers, and summaries aligned with the Pacific Climate Change Research Roadmap 2025–2030.



5.0 Key Conference Preparatory dates

- **Call for Sponsorships:** June 2026
- **Announcements: Call for Abstracts:** June 2026
- **Conference Mission:** June 2026
- **Selection of Abstracts:** June 2026
- **Notification of Participants:** July 2026
- **Submission of papers:** July 2026
- **Event date:** September 2026