

**AUSAID PROJECT
ENHANCED APPLICATIONS OF CLIMATE PREDICTIONS IN
PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES
(PI-CPP)**

***Report on the Stakeholders Workshop on Application of Climate
Predictions in Tuvalu***

Conference Room 2, Government Building, Funafuti, Tuvalu
5th to 6th July 2005

Introduction

The second phase of the project has involved the roll-out of the revised (near-final) Seasonal Forecast System (called SCOPIC) to the local NMSs, training of local NMS personnel in statistics and forecast production and distribution, and the holding of stakeholder workshops. In addition, the visiting parties investigated possible third-phase pilot projects, for the application of climate forecast information in climate sensitive industries, most notably fisheries, agriculture and water.

The ninth and the final of a series of workshops under the second phase was held in Funafuti, Tuvalu. The project team arrived in Funafuti on the 4th July and spent the next day training the Tuvalu Meteorological Service (TMS) personnel on basic statistics and SCOPIC. They also assisted the TMS personnel with the preparation of their presentations and other relevant materials for the following 2-day workshop. About seven met staff (including the Director, Ms Hilia Vavae) underwent training.

The stakeholders' workshop started with a formal opening, with an opening address delivered by Honourable Matia Toafa, the Prime Minister of Tuvalu. The Director of the TMS, Ms Vavae chaired the session. There were about thirty participants including seven from the met service, and representatives from the following organisations: local councils and community groups, Tourism Office, Environment, Red Cross, Agriculture, Central Statistics Division, Police Force, Health, Fisheries, Marine & Port Services, Energy, Media, Lands & Survey, Public Works Department, Aviation, and waste management.

The objectives of the workshop were as follows.

- To demonstrate available information and stress the limitations of the forecasts, the nature of probability-based predictions;
- To demonstrate to decision-makers in climate sensitive activities the availability of, and effective and prudent use of probabilistic climate predictions as an input to decision-making;
- To train decision-makers in climate sensitive activities on the usage of probabilistic climate predictions in decision making to minimize risks in their respective sectors;
- To establish effective communication delivery channels from the PIC National Meteorological Service to its clients;
- To ascertain specific information needs, provide a forum for identifying desirable software modifications
- To train the media contacts in order to ensure most effective and accurate dissemination of the climate information, including predictions to the general public; and

- To identify and/or commence one of more pilot projects in some of the PIC.

The workshop was structured into six sessions: Formal Opening; The Climate System, its behaviour and consequences; Seasonal Climate Forecasting; Managing Climate Risks (case studies); The Forecasting and Decision-Making exercise and Climate Outlook Forum.

The Project Team (PT) was represented by Ms Janita Pahalad (Project Team Leader-ATL), Dr David Jones (Bureau of Meteorology) and Dr Yahya Abawi (Queensland Department of Primary Industries).

Outcomes

The attendance at the workshop was encouraging as there were about 30 participants throughout the 2 days.

An evaluation of the workshop was carried out (see attached summary report). The overall rating for the workshop ranged from *very good* to *excellent*. Twenty-seven participants evaluated the workshop.

Discussion

All local presenters gave their presentations in their local language i.e. Tuvaluan.

Mr Filipo Taulima from the Public Works Division (PWD) gave a presentation on water resource management in Tuvalu which generated an interesting discussion on some of the water-related issues faced by Tuvalu. Lack of sufficient water storage tanks has become a major concern. Individual households do not have water tanks or do not have proper guttering therefore they rely on the PWD to pump in water in their tanks. Water is charged at \$20 per 1000 gallon. One of the participant added media has not been active in passing information from the PWD to the public such as impending water shortages.

International Waters Project (IWP) in Tuvalu was discussed. The Tuvalu IWP is being managed by Tuvalu's Department of Environment in partnership with the Prime Minister's Office and the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). Its main objective is to find ways to improve the management of toilet waste and promote the adoption of practical, cost-effective and safe toilet systems in Funafuti. Mr Kelesoma Saloa from the IWP commented that under the IWP 10 year plan, TMS should be included as they now have seasonal forecasting capabilities.

Participants from the Marine & Port Services asked TMS to provide latest weather forecast on regular basis. Due to a very poor internet connection at the TMS there is frequent delay in getting update bulletins from the Fiji Meteorological Service.

During the Forecasting and Decision Making exercise, a PWD participant mentioned a common practice of sending staff on leave when the conditions are likely to be wet as lot of overtime is required during dry periods.

It was noted that there is no charge for the public weather forecast by the Radio Tuvalu. Representative from the Red Cross, Ms Lilian Falealuga-Tine expressed interest in getting a seasonal climate outlook every month.

Recommendations

- TMS to issue seasonal climate outlook for Tuvalu on a regular basis preferably every month.

Additional Comments

Vavae requested for assistance and continuous support from the team. In response ATL assured the support from the team and the Bureau. Vavae raised her concern about the problem of unreliable internet which is likely to hinder the issuance of the forecast. She also expressed her interest in participating in one of the pilot projects.

During the closure the Honourable Prime Minister graced the workshop with his presence again. He thanked the project team, the AusAID and the Australian Government for including Tuvalu in this important project.

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EVALUATION REPORT

Stakeholders Workshop on Application of Climate Predictions (Tuvalu)

Introduction

An evaluation was done for the 2-day workshop held at the Conference Room 2, Government Building, Funafuti from 5th to 6th July 2005. The main purpose was to ensure that the objectives of the workshop were met and to measure the success of the project.

Evaluation Form

The form consisted of eight sections with rating ranging from strongly agree (5) to strongly disagree (1). The five workshop sessions and training handout were evaluated with an overall assessment.

The workshop sessions were:

- Climate System, its Behaviour and Consequence;
- Seasonal Climate Forecasting;
- Managing Climate Risks;
- The Forecasting and Decision Making Exercise; and
- Climate Outlook Forum.

The participants were asked to rate the above sessions by its contents (its usefulness and relevance), time allocation, the structure of the presentations, and its effectiveness. The contents and the amount of materials provided in the handouts were rated.

Participants also had a chance to comment on each presenter: how well the presenter do and how could he/she improve.

Finally, there was a section on overall assessment: most valuable aspect; least valuable aspect, venue, entire workshop and any additional comments.

Results

Thirty-eight people registered on the first day of the workshop and the number dropped slightly the next day. The following results are summarised from 27 forms.

The average rating for each workshop session ranged from 4.2 to 4.5 (out of 5). The lowest rating was given to “*the time allocation*” for each session (as low as 3.4). The highest average rating of 4.7 was given to the usefulness of the Forecasting and Decision Making exercises and Decision Making exercises, and the training handouts.

Most participants found the *Forecasting and Decision Making Exercise* as the most valuable aspect of the workshop.

The overall rating:

Workshop: excellent (10); very good (12); good (3)

Some notable comments/recommendations made by the participants:

- “Two weeks training would be sufficient especially for people who haven’t had any climate or weather training before”.

- Would need follow-up in-country workshops.
- Should establish formal links with the Met Service.
- More hands-on activities.
- Participation certificate will be good for future reference.
- To provide more information on what cause the climate change in the Pacific region.
- The duration of the workshop should be longer (3 to 4 days).

Further Comments

The first comment was made by a non-met staff. Despite calling it an awareness workshop, lot of participants misunderstood it as a training workshop.

This was the last of a series of workshops.

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Stakeholders' Workshop on Application of Climate Predictions

***Conference Room 2, Government Building, Funafuti, Tuvalu
5th to 6th July 2005***

AGENDA

Tuesday

Formal Opening: Chaired by the Director the Tuvalu Meteorological Service, Ms Hilia Vavae

- 10.00 Opening Prayer
 Welcome remark: Ms Vavae
- 10.10 Opening address by Hon. Matia Toafa, Prime Minister
- 10.20 Introduction of the Project Team
 Introduction of the PI-CPP project and the Workshop: Janita Pahalad
- 10.45 *MORNING TEA*

Session Two: The Climate System, its behaviour and consequences

- 11.15 Background on the climate system including key process (small scale/large scale variability): David Jones, BOM
- 12.00 Local climatology (eg seasonal variation, ENSO teleconnections including some of the past events and tropical cyclones): Kilateli Epu, Tuvalu Met

Session Three: Seasonal Climate Forecasting

- 12.30 Seasonal climate forecasts: what makes it possible, processes, what do they tell us and their limitations: David Jones, BOM
- 13.00 Seasonal Climate Outlook for the Pacific Island Countries (SCOPIIC): What user products are available?: Yahya Abawi, QDPI
- 13.45 *LUNCH*

Session Four: Managing Climate Risks (case studies)

- 14.30 Water Management:
- 15.15 Agricultural: Yahya Abawi
- 16.00 *AFTERNOON TEA*
- 16.15 Regional and Local Seasonal Forecast Products: what's available regionally and locally; dynamic models: David Jones, BOM
- 16.40 *END OF DAY 1*

Wednesday

Session Five: THE FORECASTING AND DECISION-MAKING EXERCISE

- 9.00 Briefing on F&D-M Exercise
Presentation of 1st 3-month rainfall outlook and ENSO outlook
Group session
Presentation “what actually happened”
- 10.30 *MORNING TEA*
- 11.00 Brief report from each group
- 11.45 Presentation of 2nd 3-month rainfall outlook and ENSO outlook
Group session
Presentation “what actually happened”
- 13.00 *LUNCH*
- 13.45 Brief report from each group

Session Six:

- 14.30 CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM
Presentation of the following 3-month rainfall outlook
Round-table discussion
- 15.00 Presentation on RANET: Janita Pahalad
- 15:15 *AFTERNOON TEA*
- 15.30 Recommendations and the next steps (Wrap-up): how to establish an effective communication channel/ service delivery channels; software modification specification.
- 16.30 *CLOSURE*

THE STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP ON APPLICATION OF CLIMATE PREDICTIONS

FUNAFUTI, TUVALU

5TH TO 6TH JULY 2005

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