

2nd SYMPOSIUM

ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE PACIFIC REGION

Lautoka, Fiji, 21st-22nd August 2019





BACKGROUND

The Pacific region is affected by climate change at different levels. According to the 5th Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), current and future climate-related drivers of risk for small islands during the 21st century include sea-level rise, tropical and extra-tropical cyclones, increasing air and sea surface temperatures, as well as changing rainfall patterns, among others.

The future risks associated with these drivers, according to IPCC, include loss of adaptive capacity and damages to ecosystem services critical to lives and livelihoods in small islands. In addition, sea-level rise is mentioned as posing one of the most widely recognized climate change threats to low-lying coastal areas on islands and atolls. Furthermore, given the dependence of island communities on coral reef ecosystems for a range of services including coastal protection, subsistence fisheries and tourism, there is high confidence that coral reef ecosystem degradation will negatively impact island communities and livelihoods. Given the inherent physical characteristics of small islands, AR5 reconfirms the high level of vulnerability of small islands to multiple stressors, both climate and non-climate. These elements illustrate the fact that, in addition to the necessary measures in the field of environmental mitigation, adaptation approaches are urgently needed.

The above state of affairs illustrates the need for a better understanding of how climate change affects the Pacific region, and for the identification of processes, methods and tools which may help the countries in the region to adapt. There is also a perceived need to showcase successful examples of how to cope with the social, economic and political problems posed by climate change in Pacific countries.

It is against this background that the “**2nd SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE PACIFIC REGION**” or **PACIFIC ADAPT 2019** is being organized by the University of Fiji, the University of South Pacific, the National University of Fiji, the Research and Transfer Centre “Sustainable Development and Climate Change Management” of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany), and the International Climate Change Information and Research Programme (ICCIRP). The Symposium will be a truly interdisciplinary event, mobilizing scholars, practitioners and members of governmental agencies, undertaking research and/or executing climate change projects in the Pacific region.

PACIFIC ADAPT 2019 will be held at the Tanoa Hotel in **Lautoka**, Fiji, which is around 25 Km away from the international airport in Nadi, used by most international flights arriving in Fiji. The Symposium will focus on “fostering resilience and the regional capacity to adapt”, meaning that it will serve the purpose of showcasing experiences from research, field projects and best practice in climate change adaptation among countries in the region, which may be useful or implemented elsewhere.



AIMS

Consistent with the need for more cross-sectoral interactions among the various stakeholders working in the field of climate change adaptation in the Pacific region, the aims of **PACIFIC ADAPT 2019** are as follows:

- I. to provide research institutions, universities, NGOs, government agencies and enterprises from Pacific countries with an opportunity to display and present their works in the field of climate change adaptation;
- II. to foster the exchange of information, ideas and experiences acquired in the execution of climate change adaptation projects, especially successful initiatives and good practice across the region;
- III. to discuss methodological approaches and experiences deriving from case studies and projects, which aim to show how climate change adaptation may be implemented in practice;
- IV. to network the participants and provide a platform so they can explore possibilities for cooperation.

Last but not least, a further aim of **PACIFIC ADAPT 2019** will be to document and disseminate the wealth of experiences available today. To this purpose, the **book "Managing Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific Region"** will be published, with all accepted papers. This will be a further volume of the award-winning book series "Climate Change Management" published by Springer, which since its creation in 2008 has become the world's leading book series on climate change management. The decision of the editors as to which papers may be selected and undergo peer review for the book is final.

ORGANISERS

Co-Chairs

- Professor Walter Leal, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany) and Manchester Metropolitan University (UK)
- Professor Prem Misir, The University of Fiji

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Coordination

- Roselyn Naidu, The University of Auckland, New Zealand
- Priyatma Singh, University of Fiji
- Kushaal Raj, The Climate Change Unit, Ministry of Economy, Fiji
- Juliane Bönecke, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Scientific Committee

- Luke He, Meteorologist, Climate Prediction Center, NCEP/NWS/NOAA, USA
- Aysin Dedekorkut-Howes, Griffith University, Australia
- Dr. Brent Jacobs, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia
- Professor Y.Kuleshov, Australian Bureau of Meteorology, Australia
- Dr. Ajal Kumar, The University of the South Pacific, Fiji
- Dr. Johana Nalau, Griffith University, Australia
- Professor Dan Orcherton, Fiji National University, Fiji
- Dr. Antoine de Ramon N'Yeurt, European Union Global Climate Change Alliance Project (EUGCCA), The University of the South Pacific, Fiji
- Professor Anirudh Singh, The University of the South Pacific, Fiji

Scientific Support

- Dr Jelena Barbir, International Climate Change Information and Research Programme (ICCIRP)

Cooperating Organisations

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
- International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP)
- International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

Delegates attending **PACIFIC ADAPT 2019** will come from a cross-sectoral range of areas. These are:



1. members of NGOs working with climate change;
2. researchers at universities and research centres;
3. teaching staff at universities;
4. representatives from companies;
5. representatives from UN and national development and aid agencies working with climate change adaptation in the Pacific and funding/ executing projects on the ground;
6. project officers and consultants;
7. other people interested in the topic.

The participation of doctoral students is warmly encouraged and supervisors/advisers are kindly requested to facilitate their participation. The sort of international exposure and the rich content of this Symposium, will be beneficial to their training and to their future careers.

It is believed that this wide range of participants will help to outline the need for and the usefulness of integrated approaches towards climate change adaptation in the Pacific region, and hence contribute to the further consolidation of this thematic area.

STRUCTURE OF THE EVENT

PACIFIC ADAPT 2019 is organised in two main strands:

Strand 1: the poster displays

Participating organisations will be able to put-up posters describing their works and projects and to distribute the relevant information to the participants. The posters will allow close, one-to-one contacts between the participants and the exhibitors.

Strand 2: the presentations

A set of presentations, divided into five main themes will be organised, distributed over parallel sessions dealing with some of the issues of strategic value in the field of climate change adaptation. These are:

Session 1: Implementing Climate Change Adaptation in Rural Areas and Communities, Cities, Countries and via Outreach Programmes

Session 2: Climate Change Adaptation, Resilience and Hazards (including droughts/floods)

Session 3: Climate Change and Agriculture

Session 4: Information, Communication, Education and Training on Climate Change



Session 5: Climate Change and Health

A special session (session 5) on climate change and health will be organized in **PACIFIC ADAPT 2019** as the final conference of the project “**Climate Change and Prevalence Study of ZIKA Virus Diseases in Fiji**” (**Zika under a climate change and epidemiological perspective**) funded by the German Ministry of Science and Research (BMBF). Attendance to this event is freely open.

All plenary and parallel sessions, as well as the social events, will provide participants with an outstanding opportunity to interact, network and learn about the latest ideas, projects and practices, mainstreaming climate change adaptation in the Pacific region.

DEADLINES

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 20th February 2019

Deadline for submission of papers: 10th April 2019

Deadline for the submission of revised papers: 30th May 2019

Deadline for registrations: 30th May 2019

Since the **PACIFIC ADAPT 2019** conference book is expected to be launched shortly after the event, the deadlines need to be followed.

FEES AND CHARGES

- a) **International delegates:** a discounted fee of Euro 250 (professionals) or Euro 100 (for students) will be charged to those who register until 30th April 2019 (early bird registration). After that, delegates will need to pay the full fee of Euro 300 / Euro 150 respectively. The fees include lunches and coffee breaks on 21st-22nd August 2019, as well as the evening reception on 21st August 2019. They also include an **electronic copy of the book "Managing Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific Region"** to be produced as part of the event, to be sent to the authors of the accepted papers.
- b) **For Fiji nationals:** no fees are charged to Fiji nationals.

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This is a self-funded event and the organisers are unable to pay any travel or accommodation costs of any kind. They are however happy to issue letters of invitation to support delegates to request funding for their participation.

TIME-TABLE AND LOCATION

“**PACIFIC ADAPT 2019** will be held on 21st-22nd August 2019 at the Tanoa Hotel in **Lautoka, Fiji**. The schedule is as follows:

21 st August 2019	22 nd August 2019
All day: Exhibition and visit to displays	All day: Exhibition and visit to displays
Morning: Plenary and Sessions	Morning: Plenary and Sessions
Afternoon: Plenary and Sessions	Afternoon: Plenary and Sessions
Evening: Reception	Close at 16:00

REGISTRATION AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Registrations TO “**PACIFIC ADAPT 2019** are now open and are possible until the 30th May 2019. Regrettably, logistical limitations mean that registrations after the deadline will not be possible. Since the space for posters and the time for presentations is limited, **delegates are advised to register as soon as possible**. The organisers will notify any interested delegate or organisation in case there are any limitations with time for presentations or space for displays. Registered delegates will then receive further details on the payment of the fees and updated information on the preparations for the event. The decision as to which papers will be accepted for presentation will be taken by the Chairpersons, following consultation with the organising committee. Participants registering to the event will do so under the condition that they will cover their own travel, accommodation and incidental costs (e.g. visa fees) related to their trip to Fiji. **This is a self-funded event and the organisers are unable to pay any travel or accommodation costs of any kind**. Letters of invitation to enter Fiji can only be sent to



bona fide, registered delegates, who have paid their fees and need a document to show their employers. For cancellations of registrations up to 45 days before the event, a 50% refund may be made. For cancellations afterwards, no refunds will be possible. Registrations are now open and may be made on-line at: <https://www.haw-hamburg.de/en/ftz-nk/events/fiji2019.html>.

CONTACT POINT FOR SCIENTIFIC INPUTS, STRATEGIC COOPERATION AND GUIDANCE ON PUBLICATION

All questions related to scientific inputs, abstracts and strategic partnerships, as well as the book, should be sent to:

Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DEd, DLitt, FSB, FRGS, FLS)
Professor of Environment and Technology
Manchester Metropolitan University
UK
E-mail: ICCIRP-ClimateChangeManagement@haw-hamburg.de

CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATOR AND CONTACT POINT FOR FURTHER DETAILS

All questions related to registrations should be sent to:

Dr. Jelena Barbir
International Climate Change Information Programme
E-mail: jelena@barbir.com.es

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT

An abstract should be up to 200 words, it should describe the rationale and aims of the paper, and some of its results. General descriptions of broad contexts should be avoided. **The title of the abstract and the full contact details about the author(s) need to be provided.** Abstracts should be written in the third person and not in the first or second one (e.g. I, me, or my paper). Please see in the next page a sample abstract.

Abstracts should be sent to Dr. Jelena Barbir at jelena@barbir.com.es by the 20th February 2019.

Authors whose abstracts have been accepted, will receive further details about how to submit their full papers, and further logistical information.



PACIFIC ADAPT 2019

SAMPLE ABSTRACT

To be sent to: Dr. Jelena Barbir, International Climate Change Information Programme

E-mail: jelena@barbir.com.es

Promoting Climate Change Adaptation in Developing Countries: breaking misconceptions and addressing information needs

Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DEd, DLitt, FSB, FRGS, FLS)

Hamburg University of Applied Sciences

Germany

E-mail: walter.leal2@haw-hamburg.de

Abstract

The impacts of climate change to natural ecosystems, infra-structure and livelihood, means that the implementation of climate change adaptation strategies in developing countries has become a pressing issue. Among other factors, the undertaking of adaptation strategies is made difficult by the general lack of awareness and spread misconceptions about the real impacts of climate change which, in turn, slow down the execution of the adaptation initiatives needed, and which may ameliorate them.

This paper presents an analysis about the misconceptions related to the implementation of climate change adaptation strategies, and describes the most widespread ones, as well as their implications. A special emphasis is given to the problems and barriers caused by misinformation, which – in turn – prevent the promotion of adaptation initiatives at local level. Finally, some concrete steps which may be taken in order to break the misconceptions and foster a more systematic view of adaptation strategies, are outlined. Experiences gathered in this paper will be useful to people and organisations interested in the different levels of responses given to climate changes threats, and on some of the tools which may be used to encourage specific action to adapt to changing climate conditions.



“PACIFIC ADAPT 2019”

REGISTRATION FORM

1. Surname: _____

2. First Name: _____

3. Title (Prof., Dr. Mr, Ms, etc): _____

4. Institution: _____

5. Address: _____

6. Telephone (please include national and local code): _____

7. E-mail: _____

8. You intend to participate by means of: Presentation Display both

9. Title of presentation: _____

10. Session chosen (please tick): _____

Session 1: Implementing Climate Change Adaptation in Rural Areas and Communities, Cities, Countries and via Outreach Programmes ()

Session 2: Climate Change Adaptation, Resilience and Hazards (including droughts/floods) ()

Session 3: Climate Change and Agriculture ()

Session 4: Information, Communication, Education and Training on Climate Change ()

Session 5: Climate Change and Health ()



11. Title of poster: _____

12. Do you need a visa to enter Fiji? () Yes* () No

(*) If you need a visa, please contact us supplying us with the following details: place and date of birth, passport number, home address, address of your employers.

13. Do you have any dietary requirements? () Yes () No

If so, which one (please specify):

International delegates: a discounted fee of Euro 250 (professionals) or Euro 100 (for students) will be charged to those who register until 30th April 2019 (early bird registration). After that, delegates will need to pay the full fee of Euro 300 / Euro 150 respectively. The fees include lunches and coffee breaks on 21st-22nd August 2019, as well as the evening reception on 21st August 2019. They also include an **electronic copy of the book** to be produced as part of the event, to be sent to the authors of the accepted papers.

For Fiji nationals: no fees are charged to Fiji nationals.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR REGISTRATION.