



Department of Climate Change

NEWSLETTER

Quarter 1, 2021

Inside This Issue

Highlight Event

PAGE 2

Climate Finance

PAGE 3

Policy & Planning

PAGE 4

Vulnerability & Adaptation

PAGE 5-6

Mitigation & Climate Change
Reports

PAGE 7

National Ozone Unit

PAGE 8

Communication and
Information

PAGE 9-11

Acknowledgement of Donors

PAGE 12

Building a Resilient Tonga



Director Lu'isa Tu'i'afitu Malolo, Heads of Divisions and staff
for Department of Climate Change

What we do

The Department of Climate Change strives to put an effective system in place for Climate Change mitigation, adaptation and phasing out of ozone depleting substances. The Department follows the Tonga Climate Change Policy (2016), Joint National Action Plan 2 (JNAP 2 2018-2028) that align to the Tonga Strategic Development Framework II (TSDF II 2015-2025) together with the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP 2017-2030) and international obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Vienna Convention for the protection of the Ozone Layer.

Department of Climate Change
Ministry of MEIDECC
Level 3, OG Sanft Building
Nuku'alofa, Tonga

HIGHLIGHT EVENT

GCF approved Tonga's Proposal for "Enabling Private Sector Access to Climate Finance to Strengthen Climate Resilience Development in Tonga".

On January 28th, 2021 the GCF approved Tonga's Proposal for "Enabling Private Sector Access to Climate Finance to Strengthen Climate Resilience Development in Tonga". The GCF, short for Green Climate Fund, supports country-driven initiatives by developing countries to strengthen their institutional capacities, governance mechanisms, and planning and programming frameworks towards a transformational long-term climate action agenda through its Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme.



Ms. Leta Havea Kami General Manager for Tonga Development Bank with Ms Elizabeth 'Akau'ola and both staff from TDB and Climate Change Department.

Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC), will investigate ways to overcome the barriers to private sector engagement in climate change actions for the development of projects/programmes which will translate into national and regional benefits.

Change as the NDA supporting office in collaboration with vulnerable groups most impacted by climate change including women, youth and people with disabilities (PWDs).

In addition to stakeholder engagement of NGOs and CSOs, beneficiaries of this Readiness Programme will include the

The main focus of this 'Private Sector Readiness' programme will be:

1. Strengthening private sector engagement with the GCF through knowledge and capacity building.
2. Crowding-in private sector investment for climate actions.
3. Building the capacity within the private sector to develop GCF project concept notes and proposals.

- Tonga Development Bank as the Delivery Partner – towards enabling Tonga's pursuit of Direct Access support through accreditation
- the Private Sector, particularly MSMEs,
- the Tonga Chamber of Commerce & Industry as the executing entity
- Department of Climate

The approved Readiness grant is expected to also facilitate equitable opportunities for the involvement of especially women entrepreneurs.



Mr. Paula Ma'u CEO for MEIDECC

Tonga has successfully secured about a total of USD 3.5 million in Readiness Support to date, with the latest approval equaling USD 302,281.00. The 2018 Tonga Country Programme, developed out of the first GCF-approved Readiness Support, identifies and emphasizes the urgency of engaging the private sector – particularly micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) who contribute at least 70% of the country's overall GDP – to strengthen overall climate change resilience development.

The Readiness Programme, which was initiated by the Tonga Chamber of Commerce & Industry (TCCI) in close collaboration with Tonga's GCF National Designated Authority -



Tonga Chamber of Commerce & Industries Board members

Climate Finance Division

OBJECTIVE

The Climate Finance Division is tasked with ensuring that the Climate Change Trust Fund is efficiently capitalized through multiple climate finance sources and effectively dispersed at the national and sub-national level. The Division is also tasked with ensuring that multiple donors and development partners are sourced for the financing and implementation of all climate related initiatives which fall under various national climate policy instruments such as Tonga's JNAP, NDC, and climate change policy.

Continued Support from the Commonwealth

The Tonga Department of Climate Change (DCC) continued to receive support from the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH) to unlock climate financing. CCFAH acts as a valuable asset to ensure Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the South Pacific region secure funding to tackle climate change.



Introducing of Mr. Martin Barriteau through virtual meeting



Climate Finance Adviser Mr. Martin Barriteau

Among other capacity-building roles, Mr. Barriteau is eager to assist the DCC in assessing full-size projects from the GCF through the Enhanced Direct Access funding window and operationalizing of the Tonga Climate Change Trust Fund. These accomplishments he has already achieved with the countries in the Caribbean. He holds a Master Degree from the United Kingdom and is a specialist in mangroves conservation and marine protected areas. Mr. Barriteau will also continue the work of the previous CCFAH adviser, Dr. Othniel Yila a Nigerian citizen, who was assigned to MEIDECC from 2018 to 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Mr. Barriteau is currently working remotely during his initial one-year contract.

From February 2021, Martin Barriteau was assigned by the CCFAH as a Climate Finance Adviser to the DCC to continue the success of assessing climate financing from donors such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Mr. Barriteau, a National of Grenada in the Eastern Caribbean, brings a wealth of knowledge with over 20 years of experience working throughout the Caribbean with Governments and Non-governmental Organizations, including international organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



Mr. Martin Barriteau with the Director Mrs. Lu'isa Tu'i'afitu Malolo and staff during a virtual meeting.

Policy & Planning Division

OBJECTIVE

This division will be responsible for the coordination and implementation of climate change policies, plans and legislations in close collaboration with all national climate change relevant stakeholders. Mainstreaming of climate change issues into policies, plans and legislations (community, sectoral and national level) is also the core responsibility of this division. This division will also ensure that Government of Tonga fulfills its obligations under the international climate change convention and agreements whereby it acceded to.

“Strengthening collaboration for a Resilient Tonga” – First meeting of JNAP Taskforce



Director with the members of the Technical Team during the meeting

“It is time to break the barriers and work together to achieve a Resilient Tonga by 2035”, Ms. Lu’isa Tu’i’afitu Malolo, Director for Climate Change and Chair declared at the first JNAP Taskforce meeting for the year whereby members of the Technical Team and NGO Forum came together on March 3, 2021.

The objective of the meeting was to update the JNAP Taskforce on the following:

- Status of the second Joint National Action Plan (JNAP 2, 2018-2028)
- Reviewing Tonga’s Climate Change Policy (2016)
- Summary of current projects implemented by the Department
- Re-confirmation of climate change focal points in ministries/organizations.

The Head of Policy and Planning Division Ms. Fololita Sila presented the status of JNAP 2 highlighting the significance of the new monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system as a tool that will inform the implementation status of JNAP 2 in a finished Progress Report. The M&E System for JNAP 2 was first implemented in 2020 and the M&E questionnaire was distributed to relevant ministries in the 1st Quarter of Financial Year, July-September 2020. Data compiled from these questionnaires will inform the first M&E Progress Report due to be completed in June 2021.

Ms. Sila further emphasised “Reviewing the Tonga Climate Change Policy (2016)” as one of the key activities of the Policy and Planning Division. The review will be conducted collaboratively with International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD) and National Adaptation Plan-Global Network (NAP-GN) who are providing technical assistance funded by the NDC Partnership.

Work will commence in April with a desk review and national stakeholder consultation followed by one on one meetings. The revised policy is envisaged to be completed in June. The JNAP Taskforce were advised to avail their time to attend the future stakeholder consultation and meetings and to provide their input necessary for revising the policy.

The JNAP Taskforce were also informed on the current projects of the Department namely:

- GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme – NDA Strengthening and Country Programming (Phase 2)
- Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+SUPA)
- Green Climate Fund – Strengthening Adaptation Planning in Tonga (GCF-SAPT)
- Long Term-Low Emission Development Strategy Fourth National Communication (4NC) and First Biennial Update Report
- Tonga’s 2nd Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Activities
- GCCA+PACRES
- JNAP Secretariat
- Ozone Depleting Substances

During the meeting, the JNAP Secretariat requested the Taskforce members to re-confirm their climate change focal points. The focal points are key individuals from the ministries who agrees to collaborate regularly with the JNAP Taskforce and the Department of Climate Change (JNAP Secretariat) to provide information on activities in their sectors relating to climate resilience. The focal points were initially established in 2019 as M&E focal points to assist in the development of JNAP 2 M&E System and later in the monitoring and evaluation of JNAP 2 activities. The Taskforce members updated their focal points to the JNAP Secretariat.

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking the JNAP Taskforce and specially acknowledging new members to JNAP Taskforce from National Planning Division, Prime Minister’s Office, Department of Statistics, Ministry of Finance and members from the Non-Government Organizations. The JNAP Taskforce agreed to hold future JNAP meetings regularly at the end of each month.

Vulnerability & Adaptation

Division

OBJECTIVE

V&A division will carry out survey/assessment at vulnerable areas throughout Tonga. Results from the assessment will be used to draft Project Concept Notes and Proposals to donors. If these projects or programmes approved by donor the V&A section will monitor these actions.

Monitor Water Tank

National Water Tank Project 1 & CCTF 2 Water tank Project

The V&A Division Monitor Team leads the monitoring of Water Tanks that has been installed in the National Water Tank Project (NWTP) Phase 1 and Climate Change Trust Fund second call (CCTF 2). The National Water Tank Project was launched on the 14th October, 2020. A criteria for individual household receiving a water tank must have quality water tank foundation and guttering system. NWTP Phase 1 has completed the installment of five thousand liter (5,000L) water tanks for one thousand and five hundred (1,500) households in Tongatapu and the Outer Islands. However, the monitor team has started monitoring the water tanks that were distributed in Tongatapu 1 Constituency including Vaololoa, Longolongo, Sopo, Tu'atakilangi, Halaano, 'Isileli, Halamau, Hala'ovave and Kolomotu'a.



Household at Hala'ovave and Halaano with successful water tank installation

CCTF Second Call Project

Small – Medium scale projects

The CCTF Board has approved Infrastructure Projects from community groups in Tongatapu and the Outer Island to fund under CCTF second call. VAD and Climate Finance Division has collaborated to implement these community projects including the upgrades of Water Tank stands for Vaotu'u & Kahoua, supplying 2 water tanks (27,000L) for Leimatu'a, Tongatapu 3 Constituency Sanitation Project, Renovation of Evacuation Centre for Matahau, Tongatapu, Malau Hall, 'Eua, Koulo, Ha'apai, Tu'anuku, Vava'u and Food security Project for Falehau Women Group in Niuatoputapu.

However, the projects that were able to implement in this quarter were the Falehau food security project and the Vaotu'u Water Tank Stand. These projects will contribute to increase resilience of community to the impact of climate change. The rest of the projects mentioned are yet to be implemented.

Falehau food security Project

The CCTF Board approved to fund the gardening materials and vegetable seedlings for the women group of Falehau, Niuatoputapu. The gardening materials and seedlings were shipped to Niuatoputapu and arrived on the 5th of March. Falehau Women Group will start the implementation of this project in close collaboration with MAFF-Niuatoputapu.



Falehau Women Group received their Gardening Materials

Vaotu'u Water Tank Stand

This project targets to upgrade the water tank stand for Vaotu'u. The water tank stand will hold a quality water tank of 27,000L. The single water tank stand is 7m in height and 4.2 sq ft on the top floor. It will provide strong pressure for distribution of water to ensure it reaches every household in Vaotu'u.



Construction of the upgraded Water Tank Stand for Vaotu'u

Vulnerability & Adaptation

Division

Virtual Training

Application of KoBo Toolbox for Community Impact Assessment

Survey

Coastline Survey

The Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) project is focused on scaling up adaptation activities in the Pacific. SPREP as co-lead with SPC on this work aims to develop an impacts analysis methodology that can be tested on past (within the last 5 years) adaptation interventions in selected small island states.

The purpose of this Virtual training is;

- to have an understanding of the rationale and scope of the impact analysis of selected adaptation interventions
- seek feedback on the smart survey tools input
- discuss the logistics involved when using KoBo Toolbox
- management of field data collected during the trial with remote technical support.

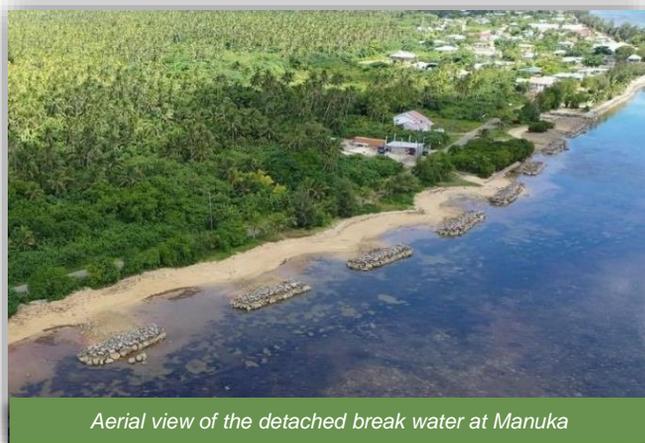
SPREP GCCA+ SUPA consultant Mr. Fuka Kitekei'aho and 3 other staffs from the V&A Division conducted a household survey in four (4) communities in Hahake, (Makaunga, Talafo'ou, Navutoka & Manuka) and two (2) villages in Hihifo (Kanokupolu & 'Ahou) to identify the impact of the coastal protection measures that was installed in these villages.



Department of Climate Change staff and NGO participants



Mr Fuka Kitekei'aho and the survey team during site visit to the Kanokupolu sea wall.



Aerial view of the detached break water at Manuka

Mitigation & Climate Change Reports

Division

OBJECTIVE

This Division is responsible for the preparation of Tonga's national climate change reports and the implementation of mitigation activities and projects. In addition, this Division continues to strengthen and build national capacities for the effective implementation of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement and meeting their respective reporting requirements by institutionalizing reporting activities within the Department of Climate Change, to ensure sustainability of reporting processes for national, regional and international purposes.

Second National Workshop for the development of Tonga's Long-term Low Emissions Development Strategy

Mapping Pathway Together, is the second of four national workshops for the development of Tonga's Low-Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) currently aimed to be submitted to UNFCCC Secretariat and launched at the 26th Conference of the parties to the UNFCCC (COP26) in Glasgow, UK November 2021.



This workshop focused on iterating the shared visions from the first National Workshop that was held in October 2020, for a desirable low-emissions future for Tonga, extending them by exploring pathway options to achieve those future visions. Tonga's LEDS will outline how Tonga will pursue its social, economic and environmental agenda, while phasing out greenhouse gas emissions between now and 2050. LEDS will also consider development through the lens of not only low-emissions, but also poverty alleviation, resilience and adaptation to climate change, well-being, economic development that will be identified during the LEDS dialogue processes.



Tonga's LEDS not only reaffirms Tonga's commitments to the Paris Agreement which Tonga ratified on 21st September 2016, but also complementing the Government of Tonga's adaptation and mitigation efforts as articulated in Tonga's Climate Change Policy, JNAP 2, and NDC 2.



National Ozone Unit Division

OBJECTIVE

The overall objective is to operate an effective and well-organized National Ozone Unit (NOU) to support the country's compliance with the control measures and other obligations under the Montreal Protocol

Strengthening Border Control



Enforcing the legal trade of Hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) in the Kingdom is one of our major responsibilities as national implementing agency for ozone layer protection.

The National Ozone Unit in collaborative exertion with His Majesty's Customs initiated this year's ozone mission with an in house training mainly focusing on the requirements of the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer and other ways to enforce security at the border regarding the import of HCFC bulk refrigerants.

As a member of the Party (Montreal Protocol), we are legally required to phase-out HCFC in accordance with the time schedule for Article 5 (developing countries).

In addition to the Montreal Protocol requirements, the training revitalized the participants on proper physical inspection procedures to be performed at the border in order to minimize the chance of not being acquainted with the smuggling of controlled substances (R22).

The ozone mission will continue to combat illegal trade and safeguard the ozone layer.



HCFC Licensing System



The only way to ensure effective implementation of HCFC phase out management plan is through the licensing system.

The National Ozone Unit, carried out an ozone awareness workshop for Tonga Refrigeration & Air Condition Association on ozone depletion and permit system for importing HCFC refrigerants.

Ozone layer is depleted by HCFC – 22 when escape into the atmosphere. It has the properties and high potentiality to deteriorate thousands of ozone molecules for a long period of time. Hence, the workshop emphasized the significance of applying for a permit to handle and to import, through the licensing system in order to reduce ozone depletion as well as to keep up with the phase-out management plan.

The licensing system requires all importers and technicians to request for permit in written form to the National Ozone Unit. The approval of permit depends on certain conditions such as competency of technicians and the knowledge of importers on the chemical properties of the intended import substance as well as the availability of proper storage facility.



Communication and Information

Division

OBJECTIVE

Effective management of Climate Change Information System, Data Security and integrity, databases and backup systems with support in different level and monitor to make sure the safety of the department resources. To conduct and provide national Climate Change awareness annually programs.

Journalists Briefing Workshop on Tonga's Joint National Action Plan 2 (JNAP 2)



CEO for MEIDECC Mr. Paula Ma'u, Director of Climate Change Ms. Lu'isa Tu'afitu Malolo, Lady Luseane Luani with the participating members of the training

In response to the climate crisis Tonga's Department of Climate Change under MEIDECC hosted a half-day workshop to brief the Journalists in the country on how the Government of Tonga has been addressing the impacts of climate change through the JNAP 2.

The Journalist Briefing workshop on JNAP 2, was funded by IISD under the NDC Partnership's Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP) and was facilitated by the Information and Communication Division under the Department of Climate Change.

Journalists in Tonga mostly covered news on politics, social, economy, health, or lifestyle but very little on Climate Change.

The Department of Climate Change conducted this briefing workshop with an objective to provide journalists with an understanding of how the impacts of climate change had affected the country's economy, jobs, infrastructure and

provided information on how the impacts of climate change have been addressed by the Government of Tonga through JNAP 2

The CEO for MEIDECC, Mr. Paula Ma'u officially opened the workshop at the O.G Sanft Building on the 25th of March, 2021. Mr. Ma'u emphasized in his welcoming remarks on the importance of engaging the media as one of the key partners to assist the Department of Climate Change in raising awareness and inform the general public on climate change. Representatives from different Tongan Media Organization like Tonga Broadcasting Commission (TBC), Talaki News Online, Matangi Tonga and various Frequency Modulation (FM) stations attended the workshop.

This was the first journalist workshop to be conducted by the Department of Climate Change and it won't be the last. There is a need to continue strengthening the capacity of journalists on the importance to raise awareness on climate change for the future of Tonga.

Communication and Information

Division

Climate Change Adaptation Media Training and Re-launching of the Department Portal



CEO for MEIDECC Mr. Paula Ma'u, Director Ms. Lu'isa Tu'llafitu Malolo, representatives from NGOs, Line Ministries, and Private Sector



Representative from Line Ministries, Private Sectors, and NGOs

Tonga's Department of Climate Change in partnership with the Tonga Broadcasting Commission (TBC) hosted two events

- 1) training on Climate Change Adaptation
- 2) the re-launching of the Department's Portal at the Davina House, Nuku'alofa.

The Climate Change Adaptation training was intentionally aimed to provide an understanding of how the JNAP 2 should be used for covering news or raising awareness on Climate Change by the media. This training was built on the journalist briefing workshop on JNAP 2 that was conducted by the department on the 25th of March 2021.

The training was officially opened by the CEO Mr. Paula Ma'u followed by the re-launch of the department's portal. Mr. Ma'u formally welcomed representatives from international partners who was streaming live from overseas, participants from line ministries, NGOs, and Private Sectors who participated to gain knowledge and build their capacity in interacting with the media.

This workshop was co-funded by the NAP-GN and the IISD under the NDC Partnership in collaboration with the Department's Communications and Information Division.

The Portal aims to provide information on Climate Change. The information is in a form of International and National reports such as Tonga GCF Country Program, TCCP, JNAP 2, and other climate change related reports. Other information like brochures, Awareness Materials, Department Vacancies, and Factsheets can also be found in the Department's portal.



Launching of the portal by CEO for MEIDECC Mr. Paula Ma'u

Communication and Information

Division

The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES) supports the Department of Climate Change Portal

PACRES Project supported the Communication and Information Division at Department of Climate Change by funding two new officers to work and support the implementation of activities of the Communication Plan and Department of Climate Change Portal.

The PACRES Project aims to scale up regional and national climate change portals to increase access to climate change and disaster resilience information.

This includes contributing to ongoing maintenance and support of these regional and national knowledge management portals, which are critical to their long-term sustainability.

The climate change portal was established under JNAP 1 (2010-2015) for information, knowledge management and sharing. This was also re-echo in JNAP 2 to strengthen the portal for information management and sharing as an activity. JNAP 2 also notes:

“The portal needs strengthening and inclusion of all relevant information and knowledge from government ministries, the private sector, NGOs, and communities.”

The two officers who are funded under the PACRES Project are Mrs. Norma Taukapo (Knowledge Management and Communication Officer) and Mr. Luke Veikoso (Information Management Officer) working under the department.



Norma Bourke Taukapo

Ms. Norma Taukapo is responsible for gathering information, creating awareness materials and the contact person for media, research and makes recommendations on consolidation of climate change, assist planning

National Climate Change Awareness Week and other task assigned by the Director and Head of Division.

Mrs. Taukapo was a journalist for many years working both for print and online. She graduated from Tonga Institute of Higher Education with a Diploma in Media & Journalism. With her experience and knowledge she is a benefit for the Department and raising awareness about climate change.



Luke Veikoso

Mr. Veikoso is the new Information Management Officer. He is responsible for the management of the Climate Change portal, assist with the Department’s database, assist planning Climate Change Awareness week and engage with SPREP in sharing information from Tonga and any other tasks assigned by the Director and HOD. Mr. Veikoso recently graduated with Bachelor of Science, double Major in Information System and Computing Science from the University of the South Pacific. He is a good asset for the Department and the Ministry by helping and running the IT and network smoothly.

Acknowledgement of Donors



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PACRES
PACIFIC ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE BUILDING



NDC 
PARTNERSHIP

ACCELERATING CLIMATE
AND DEVELOPMENT ACTION



Department of Climate Change Ministry of MEIDCEC



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