

# Pacific Climate Change & Migration Project NEWSLETTER

August 2016

## Population Displacements from Climate Change “an emerging issue,” says UN Sustainable Development Report



*The “Global Sustainable Development Report 2016” states that population displacements due to climate change are an emerging issue for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as existing migration patterns are changing as a response to adverse climate events.*

The first progress report on the new global Sustainable Development Agenda has stated that there is “robust evidence” that climate change and climate variability “worsen existing poverty, exacerbate inequalities, trigger new vulnerabilities and act as a threat multiplier for poor countries.”

The Global Sustainable Development Report 2016 states that population displacements due to climate change are an emerging issue for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as existing migration patterns are changing as a response to adverse climate events. However, international laws to protect migrating populations across international borders due to environmental factors are limited.

Officially launched by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the ministerial meeting of the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) on 20 July, the report says that another emerging issue for SIDS is the impact of continued ocean acidification and associated coral bleaching which could cause harvest failure of marine resources and significantly impact on fisheries. Loss of coral reefs will affect SIDS economically, socially and environmentally as reefs have a significant impact on fish production and fisheries, marine biodiversity, coastal protection and tourism.

The latest data in the report shows that about 800 million people around the world live in extreme poverty and hunger, 5.9 million children die before they reach the age of five, 59 million of primary school age are out of school, 2.4 billion people still lack improved sanitation facilities and one in two children under the age of five lack birth certificates.

# Gender, Migration and Climate Change

Gender is an often discussed but neglected perspective of climate change. Migration is one adaptation strategy to climate change, and since women and men experience migration differently, a gendered perspective offers important guidance for the formulation of policies. It is obvious that gender plays a role in the development of migration policies and its importance was even recognized in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

In Pacific Island states the impacts of climate change are already visible and local women are potentially more vulnerable compared to men. The United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) conducted participatory sessions with Pacific islanders in Kiribati, Tuvalu and Nauru, to supplement its household survey in the Pacific with further details on the perception of climate change and migration among women and men.

## **Pacific climate change impacts and the vulnerability of women**

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) Pacific Climate Change and Migration (PCCM) project, joined forces with the UNU-EHS, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) to conduct household surveys on the impact of climate change on migration in Kiribati, Nauru and Tuvalu. This article discusses how this research contributes, amongst others, to the development of gendered migration policies in the context of Pacific climate change.

The PCCM household surveys show that in the past decade, most households on Kiribati, Tuvalu and Nauru experienced impacts of climate change like incremental sea levels rise, saltwater intrusion and drought. UNU-EHS gathered in-depth information on key risks and problems as well as on potential solutions in participatory "Livelihood Risk Ranking Sessions".

In a study on the linkages between gender and climate change in the Pacific, UNDP found in 2013 that the "degree to which people are affected by climate change impacts is partly a function of their [...] gender". The underlying reason provided amongst others, by the Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is that women are seen to be more vulnerable compared to men. This applies particularly to women living in coastal communities like the Pacific Island states, where agricultural land is sparse and natural resources like water are limited.



A woman and child row a kayak through a flooded village in Funafuti, Tuvalu.  
(Photo: Getty Images).

## **Migration of women and men as an adaptation strategy**

In the context of climate change, the PCCM project suggests labour migration as a way to diversify household income. The International Labour Organization (ILO) notes, "with the increasing adverse impacts of climate change" it becomes more and more difficult to offer sufficient work opportunities for women and men on their respective islands. Therefore, migration offers an adaptation measure that allows another source of income under different environmental conditions. Mirjana Morokvasic's view of migration as a "household's strategy for survival" confirms migration as one way to create more resilient households. As the Head of the European Union Delegation for the Pacific, Ambassador Andrew Jacobs, explains, the IPCC stresses "it is clear that there is the potential for human movement as a response to climate change".

Pacific islanders use adaptation strategies to reduce their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. In the UNU-EHS Livelihood Risk Ranking women suggested moving inland as reaction to floods and coastal erosion or high tides, whereas men proposed building sea walls. And while both sexes emphasized a need for improvements in water management and called for governmental assistance, women suggested moving to places with lower salinity intrusion. Men mentioned overcrowded homes due to immigration to internal key destinations, amongst other issues. Male participants pointed out that this might lead to security implications, which were important to them. Thus, differences between women's and men's responses are visible. Participating women mentioned migration with a positive connotation while men focused on other measures and pointed out potential challenges arising from migration.

It is important to analyse the differences between female and male

migrants. Focusing only on men as migrants leaves half of a society's resources unused or underused, thereby limiting the possibilities for economic and social progress. Gender inequality also limits household's abilities to build sufficient resilience to the impacts of climate change. In 2008, Hon. Amberoti Nikora, then Minister for Internal & Social Affairs from Kiribati acknowledged that there has been a lack of attention to the gender and climate change nexus and stressed "the importance of the inclusion of gender in developing mitigation activities" as well as in adaptation measures. The latter point is further supported by Ruth Lane and Rebecca McNaught in their study 'Building Gendered Approaches to Adaptation in the Pacific'.

However, increased awareness of gender equality and women's empowerment has not yet translated into sufficient labour migration options for women. This is especially true for employment overseas because at present, men dominate temporary migration like seasonal workers programs. In this regard, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) calls for further research on the understudied connection between migration, gender and the environment. A starting point for gender research on the topic is the Institute of Development Studies' 2005 BRIDGE report on gender and migration, followed in 2011 by the BRIDGE report on gender and climate change. One point of ongoing discussion regards social and cultural factors present in some SIDS. Bandita Sijapati for example suggests in her 2015 IOM article 'Women's Labour Migration from Asia and the Pacific: Opportunities and Challenges' that patriarchal cultures can be an obstacle to female outmigration. While these concerns exist, Patricia R. Pessar and Sarah J. Mahler argued in the 2013 article 'Transnational Migration: Bringing Gender in' that women who were able to migrate, might then actually be able to gain more from migration in terms of empowerment compared to men.

# The inclusion of gender in the 2015 Paris Agreement and national policies

The 2015 Paris Agreement shapes international future climate change policies and is especially relevant for SIDS in the Pacific, as outlined by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2014. Gender is included in the perambulatory and operative part of the 2015 Paris Agreement that was adopted at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The inclusion of gender in the Paris Agreement's operative paragraphs signals progress from prior agreements. Paragraph 5 of Article 7 in the Paris Agreement "acknowledge[s] that adaptation action should follow a [...] gender-responsive [...] approach" and paragraph 2 of Article 11 mentions that "capacity-building should be [...] a process that is [...] gender-responsive". Regarding (female) migration, the Paris Agreement acknowledges the rights of migrants in the context of climate change action and sets out plans for a task force on climate change displacement. Thus, references to gender and women's empowerment appear in the text but are still to be integrated in all areas of the agreement.

While the 2015 Paris Agreement sets out a global framework to combat climate change, at a local level in the Pacific the development of migration policies in the context of climate

change is currently on-going. The analysis of gendered migration patterns in the context of climate change offers the possibility to account for differences in drafting of migration policies. Thereby, positive impacts are spread in the origin country among migrants, their families and friends, as well as in the destination country's society.

According to Nana Oishi, states and policies play an important role in influencing female migration by facilitating or hindering the emigration and immigration of women compared to men. Asian countries like the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Indonesia have adopted a liberal approach with "active state policies that provide information, assistance and networking opportunities to actual and potential migrants", Jayati Ghosh writes for the United Nations Development Program. In the Pacific, a lack of comprehensive scientific data has until now limited the possibilities to develop a migration policy for Kiribati, Tuvalu and Nauru. The inclusion of gender data in important policies is a step forward, and more research, such as the UNU-EHS' detailed reports, can contribute towards formulating future gendered migration policies. (Source: United Nations University - Institute for Environment and Human Security).



*Pacific women call for climate justice!*

# Symposium on Climate Displacement, Migration and Relocation

The U.S. has announced plans to co-host a "Symposium on Climate Displacement, Migration, and Relocation" to be held 13-14 December 2016 in Honolulu. President Barack Obama made the announcement at the 10th Pacific Leaders Conference in Honolulu which concluded on 31st August, 2016 with the signing of a fifteen-point outcome resolution. The U.S. also announced US\$40 million in new funding to bolster Pacific Ocean islands' defenses against climate change.

Speaking to The Huffington Post, a White House official said that the Pacific announcement "shows the administration's ongoing commitment to not only working with the large emitters - the world's largest, in the case of China - but also importance of working with some of the smallest and most vulnerable in the world."

"These steps come as sea level rise and the increased strength and frequency of catastrophic weather events pose an existential threat to places most vulnerable to their impacts, such as the Pacific Islands," the White House said in a fact sheet announcing the funding.

## **One canoe, one island, one planet Obama praises efforts by Pacific leaders in combating climate change**

United States President Barack Obama paid tribute to Pacific Island leaders for their efforts to secure the global agreement on climate change at the UN convention in Paris last year.

He made the comments at the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders at the East West Centre in Honolulu.

Obama thanked them for the leadership on the issue of climate change and says it has been, and will continue to be, a priority for his administration as well.

"Few people understand, I think, the stakes better than our Pacific Island leaders, because they're seeing already the impact. Rising temperatures and sea levels pose an existential threat to your countries. And while some members of the U.S. Congress still seem to be debating whether climate change is real or not, many of you are already planning for new places for your people to live. Crops are withering in the Marshall Islands. Kiribati bought land in another country because theirs may someday be submerged. High seas forced villagers from their homes in Fiji," President Obama said.

He told Pacific leaders that big emitters like the United States and China have a responsibility to tackle climate change.

"Nations like many of yours obviously feel a special urgency about this. The biggest emitters, like my country and China, have a special responsibility to act to make sure those countries willing to do their part move past the dirty phase of development to move into a clean energy strategy. That was a key principle in the Paris agreement. And I was mentioning to the leaders here, we could not have gotten a Paris Agreement without the incredible efforts and hard work of the Island nations. They made an enormous difference, and we're very proud of the work that they did.

"And this is why we've been working to accelerate public, private clean energy innovation, making sure that resources will be there for countries that need help preparing for the impacts of climate change that we can no longer avoid. It's also why I can announce more than \$30 million in new commitments for our friends in the Pacific — funding for investments like stronger infrastructure, more sustainable development, and safer drinking water," President Obama said.



President Obama addresses Pacific Islands Leaders in Honolulu at the conclusion of the 10th Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders.

## **Technical Meeting of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage**

Climate change doesn't only impact biodiversity or environmental quality; it also has a great influence on issues like migration, displacement and human mobility.

This was the focus of a technical meeting organized by the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Casablanca, Morocco from July 27 to 29, 2016. The meeting aimed to enhance understanding, based on science, of migration and displacement of vulnerable populations whose mobility may be impacted by factors related to climate change. It also discussed support to address migration, human mobility and displacement caused by climate change.

"For decades, more than 50 percent of the influx of migrants is concentrated between countries from the South. Environmental and South-South migration, as well as the asylum crisis, will undoubtedly be at the center of debates for decades to come," Driss El Yazami, Head of Civil Society Activities for the COP22 Moroccan steering committee said.

Morocco will play host to the next Conference of the Parties (COP22) from 7-18 November, 2016. Mohamed Nbou, representing the Moroccan Minister Delegate in Charge of the Environment, made a call to "better structure collective action on the issue." Ana Fonseca, Head of Mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), said her organization "recognised the commitment of Morocco on the question of migration."

The 4th Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage will take place in Bonn, Germany, September 19-23, 2016.



Tuvalu's Pepetua Latasi, is a member of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage

# Pacific Climate Change and Migration Project

The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Pacific Office manages the European Union-funded Pacific Climate Change and Migration (PCCM) project. The project has been working to address the issue of human mobility and displacement of Pacific countries impacted by climate change.

National activities in the project's target countries of Kiribati, Tuvalu and Nauru are aimed at institutional strengthening through developing migration indicators and sharing of information on labour migration; gathering data on community attitudes to climate induced migration; assisting with the development of climate change responses and national action strategies to mitigate the risk of displacement; and enhancing national capacity to effectively participate in regional, bilateral and global schemes on labour migration.

Achievements and best practices to date include:

- Incorporation of a migration chapter in the new Tuvalu National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS).
- High-level advocacy events including a high-level panel discussion on Climate Change & Migration as a side event during the 2015 Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) Summit held in Suva, Fiji. The panel discussion featured key leaders and policy makers such as the UN Envoy on Climate Change, Her Excellency, Mary Robinson; former President of Kiribati, HE Anote Tong, Prime Minister of Tuvalu, HE Enele Sopoaga, Prime Minister of Tonga, HE Akilisi Pohiva and the former Foreign Minister of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Hon. Tony de Brum.
- In 2015, the project also produced a film highlighting the issue of climate induced migration in the Pacific. The "Land Beyond the Horizon" captures the stories of Pacific islanders whose lands and livelihoods are threatened by climate change, as well as those who have had to relocate to other countries. The film discusses climate change impacts on peoples' lives, cultures, languages and traditions. It features exclusive footage and interviews with prominent leaders such as former President Anote Tong of Kiribati, Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga of Tuvalu and Mary Robinson, the United Nations Special Envoy on Climate Change – leaders in the frontline of climate change efforts throughout the world. The film, which received critical acclaim and won an EU Award in 2015 can be viewed on the PCCM YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4qyNRbWZ6I>;
- The project partnered with the Kiribati Government and the Prince Albert Foundation of Monaco to host a high-level dialogue on Climate-induced Migration in October 2015. Participants included the former President of Kiribati, Anote Tong, Prince Albert of Monaco and Tuvalu PM Enele Sopoaga.



EU Ambassador for the Pacific, HE Andrew Jacobs launches the PCCM film "The Land Beyond the Horizon" in Suva in September 2015.



ESCAP Executive Secretary Dr. Shamshad Akhtar addresses a panel on disaster risk at a joint SPREP-ESCAP side event at COP21 in Paris in December 2015.

- The project also provided support for various side events at COP 21 in Paris in December 2015. These included events in partnership with the Coalition of Atoll Nations on Climate Change (CANCC), the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO); the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The project also launched a media event in partnership with the United Nations University and the European Union and launched a factsheet detailing results of household surveys on climate induced migration in Kiribati, Tuvalu and Nauru. Communications support was also provided to the Tuvalu Prime Minister and his delegation at COP21.
- The project has developed Action Plans (and associated development of LOAs for the provision of seed funding) with target countries for specific activities identified by recipient governments.
- Multiple workshops have been conducted, including a sub-regional training workshop on "Foreign Employment Research and Promotion" in conjunction with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). A regional workshop on the protection of migrant workers in the fisheries sector was held in November 2015;
- Significant in-country capacity development has been delivered and policy dialogue is taking place at appropriate levels including at leaders level;
- A regional guide on International Labour Migration Statistics has been published and disseminated;
- Data collection and analysis of community attitudes toward climate change migration has been conducted with positive collaboration and commitment from the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU) and the University of the South Pacific (USP);
- National Labour Migration policies and Employment Analysis in Nauru and Tuvalu have been finalized and technical inputs provided into Tuvalu Trust Fund and Tuvalu National Sustainable Development Strategy;
- Extensive training has been provided by the ILO.

## Key Activities for 2016:

- Finalisation and launch of ESCAP/UNU reports of the 2015 Community Attitude (Household) Surveys on Climate Induced Migration in Kiribati, Tuvalu and Nauru and dissemination of findings;
- Development of a National Climate Change Policy and a scoping study on maximizing employment opportunities in Nauru. This will include development of a National Employment Policy (NEP) and ensuring integration of the policy through relevant departments. In Tuvalu the PCCM project will support amongst other initiatives, the review of the climate change policy, formulation a National Policy on Migration taking into account both internal and external migration and explore labour mobility and migration opportunities for Tuvaluans in the region;
- Mainstreaming of the Climate Change and Migration issue into the regional and global agenda through coordinated interventions with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and regional and global platforms. The project also submitted

a proposal for the consideration of Pacific leaders on climate change migration and displacement under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism;

- A regional meeting on Climate Change and Migration in December 2016;
  - COP 22 support and preparation for project focused activities, including the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage.
- Expected results:
- Increased awareness of the impacts of climate change on migration;
  - Increased capacity within Kiribati, Nauru and Tuvalu to plan and implement national policies on migration;
  - Strengthened regional knowledge and policy dialogue on the impacts of climate change on migration, including labour migration.

## Project Steering Committee Meeting

The PCCM Project Steering Committee Meeting was held at the ESCAP Pacific Office on 19 August, 2016. The PCCM and ESCAP team met with the European Union and other project stakeholders to discuss project progress and planned activities for the remainder of 2016. The PCCM project manager provided an update on the finalization and launch of the PCCM's community attitude survey reports as well as the upcoming PCCM Regional Dialogue, the implementation of National Action Plans and allocation of seed funds to each of the three focus countries. The Communications Specialist provided an update on the project's communications strategy and progress since 2015. The project's final evaluation and current financial status were also discussed.

## PCCM in Tuvalu

The Deputy Head of the ESCAP Pacific Office, Timothy Westbury visited Tuvalu in July 2016 to look at opportunities for how the work of the PCCM project could inform the work of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) Executive Committee as it prepares for COP22 in Marrakech in November 2016. Mr Westbury also discussed the upcoming regional meeting on climate change and migration.

The PCCM Project Manager Justin Shone visited Tuvalu from 25-30 August, 2016. While in Tuvalu, he made a presentation to the Na

tional Advisory Council on Climate Change (NACCC), met with the project's focal point Bikení Paeniu as well as Government representatives to discuss Tuvalu's activities under the Seed Funds being provided to the government and also discussed preparations for the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) Executive Committee meeting in Bonn from 19-23 September, 2016, CANCC meeting to be held in Tuvalu in November and the COP22 conference in November. He also discussed PCCM's technical communications support to Tuvalu at national and international levels.

## Te Kakeega III (TKIII) Tuvalu National Strategy for Sustainable Development

Representatives from the PCCM project and ESCAP Pacific Office participated in the High-level Dialogue on the Tuvalu National Sustainable Development Strategy 2016-2020, held in Suva in July.

The consultation was led by Tuvalu's Prime Minister, Hon. Enele Sopoaga and was attended by the Tuvaluan Cabinet, high level representatives from the Fiji Government, development partners and UN agencies.

Key issues for the PCCM project and ESCAP were the elaboration of a strategic priority area on migration and urbanisation which ESCAP will support the implementation of through the PCCM project. The ESCAP Pacific Office may also provide support to the M&E process for the TKIII.

The consultation heard that Tuvaluans faced major challenges in migration such as accreditation of the labour force, migrant rights, optimization of opportunities under existing schemes to benefit Tuvaluans and cultural challenges in the adaptation from subsistence to a cash economy.



Tuvalu's Prime Minister, Hon. Enele Sopoaga (second from left) at the Te Kakeega III (TKIII) Tuvalu National Strategy for Sustainable Development consultation in Suva in July 2016.

# Climate Financing Workshop, 5 August, 2016

On 5 August, 2016 UNESCAP, in partnership with the Fiji Government (Ministry of Economy) and the Global Climate Fund (GCF) collaborated on a workshop to build knowledge and capacity to access climate finance and investment. The workshop, held in Suva, was an introductory platform to provide participants with the opportunity to understand the broad framework of climate change financing.

In opening the workshop, Permanent Secretary for the Economy, Makareta Konrote said that the Fiji Government was pleased to partner with UNESCAP and thanked ESCAP for its support in the establishment of a climate change unit in Fiji and in getting it "off the ground."

Ms Konrote said that the workshop provided an important space for government officials to improve their understanding of the climate financing

## **SPC-ESCAP Workshop on Climate Resilient Agriculture**

ESCAP and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) organized a sub-regional capacity building workshop on "Building Climate Resilient Agriculture in Pacific SIDS" from 9-11 August 2016, in Nadi, Fiji.

Stakeholders in climate-sensitive agriculture sectors of Pacific SIDS engaged in knowledge exchanges on mainstreaming climate adaptation and climate-sensitive risk reduction strategies for sustainable and resilient agricultural planning and shared good practices and strategies from the Asia-Pacific region.

The EPO Head of Office Mr Iosefa Maiava delivered an opening statement at the workshop which was attended by representatives from six high-risk/low-capacity Pacific SIDS (Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Samoa and Vanuatu).

The workshop promoted the development of an Asia-Pacific inter-regional education and training network for climate resilient agriculture and South-South cooperation modality as a way forward to encour-

landscape and the opportunities for technical assistance.

The workshop provided an overview of domestic and international climate financing issues, familiarized policy makers with the means of financing low emission, climate-resilient development strategies through different public international climate financial instruments and discussed the modalities to access them.

It also offered a platform for experience sharing and engagement with climate financing and identified the key barriers faced, including data and capacity gaps. The workshop also allowed Pacific Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) to share perspectives on the strengths, weaknesses and critical success factors in approaching climate change financing and identified priority areas for future capacity building at the national and sub-national levels.

age climate resilient agricultural practices in Pacific SIDS.

The outcome of the meeting will provide substantive inputs to subsequent regional forums including the SPC/FAO meeting of the Pacific Heads of Agricultural Departments in September 2016, and the Pacific Agricultural Ministerial Conference/Pacific Agriculture Week in Vanuatu in Mid-2017.

Speaking at the workshop, Fiji's Minister for Agriculture, Inia Seruiratu said: "Our goal is to find a mechanism that can deliver on the ground technical assistance to implement resilient and sustainable agriculture practices in Pacific Small Islands Development States."

He highlighted that small island states in the Asia-Pacific region were vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and building resilience was imperative.

"This is not a stand-alone meeting but is the beginning of a longer regional partnership where we request ESCAP to take the outcomes of the meeting forward to build resilience in the agricultural sector in the region," he said.

## **Strengthening Environment Statistics**

ESCAP is working with a number of countries in the Asia-Pacific region to strengthen their environment statistics, including implementing the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). The approach includes assessments of environment policy priorities, statistical infrastructure, data availability and human resource capacity; as well as the provision of technical assistance for compiling and using statistics in prioritised sectors.

In early 2016, with ESCAP support, Samoa released experimental water accounts and ESCAP is also supporting national assessments and providing technical assistance to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Nepal, Palau and Vanuatu.

Following national assessment and scoping, collaboration has been initiated with the Central Bureau of Statistics of Nepal (CBS) on land and forest accounts. A case

study showcasing the compilation of the accounts and the production of policy-relevant indicators, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to land and forest, is expected to be published in 2017.

Fiji plans to produce draft SEEA water, energy and waste accounts by September 2016, with technical support from ESCAP. In collaboration with the UN-WTO, assistance will also be provided in the preparation of a case study on linking tourism satellite accounts with the SEEA to account for tourism-related environment use/supply.

A SEEA workshop on Environment Statistics for Asia-Pacific Small Island Developing States of the Asia-Pacific region will be held in Fiji from 14-16 September, 2016. The course is expected to focus on energy, waste and water statistics and accounts, and the links with relevant targets and indicators of the Samoa Pathway and the SDGs.



Laura Zaha (UNESCAP Bangkok) discusses climate finance and investment at the joint ESCAP-Fiji Government Workshop on Climate Finance, held in Suva on 5 August, 2016.



## Spotlight on COP22

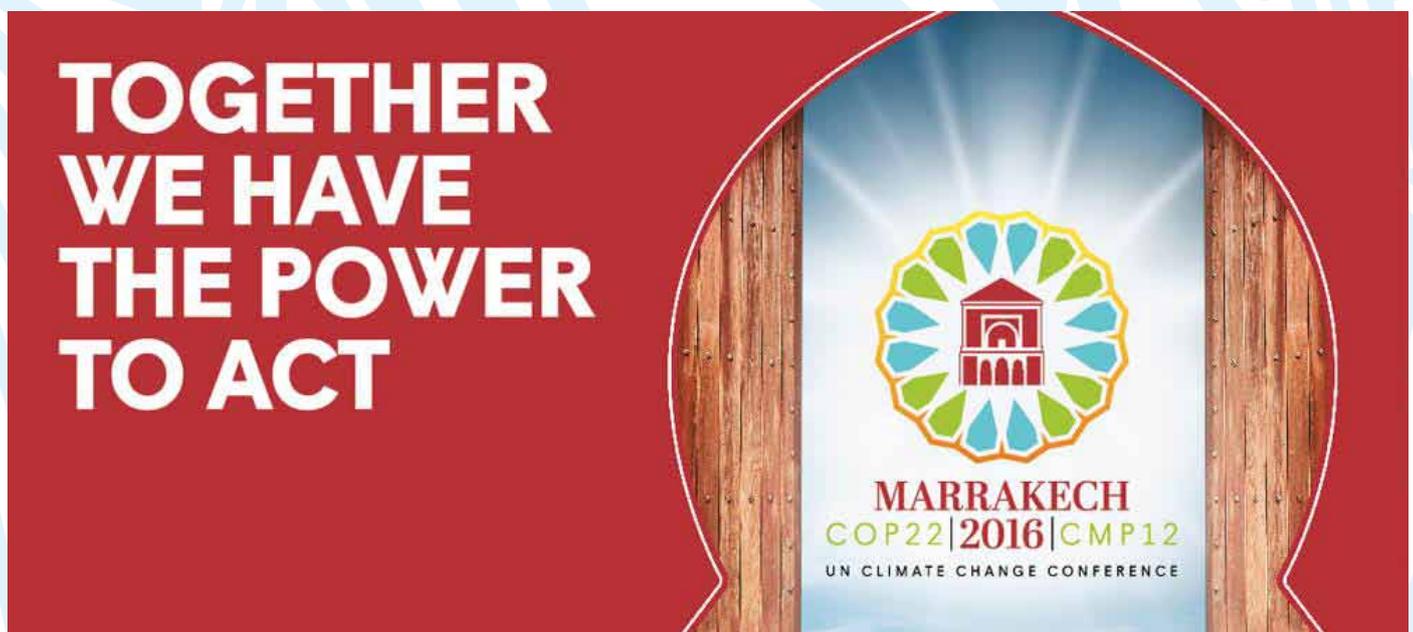
On 1 August, 2016 the COP22 Steering Committee launched a communications campaign to raise awareness on climate change issues and mobilize ahead of the COP22 summit taking place in Marrakech, from 7-18 November, 2016.

The first phase of the campaign is national and will run from August 1 – 31, 2016 and includes a short documentary film entitled "All You Have to do is Open Your Eyes" with the goal of raising awareness among the general public on the importance of preserving Morocco's natural and ecological heritage. A poster campaign, themed "together we have the power to act", has also been designed to mobilize the public around climate action. The second phase of the communications campaign is international, and will begin in September 2016. It will include a second short documentary film.

Through this first short documentary film, the COP22 Steering Committee seeks to honor Morocco's natural resources and its diversity, as well as its traditions and ancestral wisdom, in respect of the environment.

The film crew traveled cross the Kingdom of Morocco from the gates of Marrakech to the dunes of the Moroccan Sahara, from the Atlantic coastline of Sidi Ifni to the Tamuda Bay on the Mediterranean, from Chefchaouen in the Rif to Midelt in the Atlas Mountains. The images were exclusively filmed in Morocco and tell a spectacular and moving story calling on citizens to open their eyes to realize the priceless natural heritage of Morocco and to work together to preserve it and protect it for generations to come.

The documentary is available in Arabic French, English and Spanish and can be viewed here: <http://bit.ly/2aUMHwF>



### 1st Annual Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue

Italy and Maldives, in their capacities as Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), will be hosting the first annual Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue during the upcoming high level session of the General Assembly in New York in September 2016. The High Level Breakfast Event will take place on 22 September, 2016 from 8am to 9:30am at the West Terrace on the fourth floor of the UN General Assembly Building.

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The SIDS Partnership Dialogue is part of the SIDS Partnership Framework, launched in 2016, as a follow-up to the SAMOA Pathway. It is intended to launch new partnerships and follow-up on existing partnerships through sharing of best practices, challenges and successes. The dialogue will provide an opportunity for reviewing progress made by existing partnerships, sharing of good practices, lessons learned and challenges and solutions from SIDS partnerships. The dialogue will also be a platform for the launch of new partnerships for Small Island developing States and the launch of the first Global Publication on Partnerships for SIDS, a publication of the progress of SIDS partnerships since the SIDS Conference in Samoa in 2014.

