Ocean, Islands, Futures - Nature based solutions and local knowledge
Monday, Oct 13, 2025
5:00 PM - 5:45 PM

Title of <u>Proposed Panel</u>
(Sentence case, maximum 200 characters, including spaces)
Pacific Climate Change Centre- **Catalysing Innovative Climate Solutions for a Pacific Resilience: Overcoming Challenges and Embracing Opportunities**

Summary of proposed panel. This should outline an introduction of the objective/ purpose of the panel and contribution to new knowledge or practice

The multi-dimensional impacts of climate change on Pacific Island nations demand innovative, adaptive, and collaborative responses. Addressing these challenges requires the development of new social, technical, scientific, financial, and policy partnerships, alongside inclusive business models that support sustainable development and climate resilience.

The Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) plays a central role in this effort by serving as a regional hub for climate innovation. Its innovation function focuses on transforming ideas into practical, context-specific solutions that meet the needs of Pacific communities. Key initiatives include the development of the Innovative Climate Change Investment Hub, the Pacific Climate Change Innovation Lounge, and the successful hosting of the Pacific Climate Change Innovation Exhibitions in 2022 and 2024.

Through the Project for Innovative Solutions for Pacific Climate Change Resilience (ISPCCR), the PCCC is further strengthening its innovation capacity by engaging the private sector, supporting public-private collaboration, and delivering targeted capacity-building programs across 14 Pacific Island countries.

The Government of Vanuatu is leading preparations for the inaugural Pacific Innovation Forum for Climate and Environment (SPIFCE), a new biennial platform for regional collaboration, knowledge exchange, and solution-sharing.

In parallel, the Government of Canada is advancing climate innovation in the Pacific through its Indo-Pacific Strategy and the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), supporting locally driven, inclusive, and scalable climate solutions.

Objectives

- To highlight the achievements of the PCCC-ISPCCR Project in promoting innovative climate change solutions in the Pacific region.
- To introduce the Pacific Climate Innovative Investment Hub, the Innovation Lounge, and outcomes from the Pacific Climate Change Innovation Exhibition.
- To present the vision and goals of the upcoming First Pacific Innovation Forum for Climate and Environment (SPIFCE).
- To showcase Canada’s initiatives in promoting innovation and resilience in the Pacific region.
- To discuss strategies for advancing innovative climate solutions through regional partnerships and collaboration with governments, donors, and the private sector.

INDIVIDUAL PANELLIST CONTRIBUTION

Moderator Details
Full Name: Ms. Ofa Kaisamy
Organisation: Pacific Climate Change Centre, SPREP
Bio sketch (up to 50 words): Ms. Kaisamy is currently leading the strategic and operational delivery of the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) since its establishment in 2019. The PCCC is the Centre of Excellence for Pacific people, for climate change information, applied research, innovation, and capacity development.

Panellists (minimum of three)
Panellist 1
Full Name: Mr. Fred Patison, Climate Change Finance Readiness Adviser **(TBC)**
Organisation: Pacific Climate Change Centre, SPREP
Bio (up to 50 words): Mr Patison support PICs access and implement the Green Climate Fund (GCF) readiness support. He is also supporting the PCCC on its innovation and capacity building functions. He further plays a leading role within SPREP on climate finance for the UNFCCC COP negotiations and is a member of the one CROP team supporting PSIDS for the UNFCCC negotiations.

Title of Presentation 1
Catalysing Innovative Climate Solutions to build resilience in the Pacific

Panellist 1 Contribution: (Maximum 250 words, excluding references)
The Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) is advancing its climate innovation agenda through the development of the Innovative Climate Finance Investment Hub, designed to provide rapid financial and technical support tailored to the needs of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). This initiative strengthens partnerships with regional and international stakeholders, scales successful solutions, and engages the private sector to enhance business resilience and collaboration.

The Pacific Climate Change Innovation Lounge serves as a dynamic space for connecting innovators, policymakers, investors, and community leaders. The Lounge facilitates meaningful dialogue, showcases emerging solutions, and fosters cross-sector collaboration.

In 2024, the PCCC hosted the Pacific Climate Change Innovation Exhibition through the Lounge, highlighting a range of innovative technologies and practices from across the region. This event not only celebrated local ingenuity but also catalyzed new partnerships and inspired replication of successful models.

This presentation will explore how these platforms—the Investment Hub, Innovation Lounge, and Exhibition—can collectively drive innovative climate change solution in the Pacific. It will also share lessons learned and opportunities for scaling up through regional and donor collaboration.

Panellist 2

Full Name: Mr. USUI Yukichi, Director, Environmental Management and Climate Change Group (Team 1), Global Environment Department

Organisation: JICA

Bio (up to 50 words): USUI Yukichi has worked at JICA since 2002. In his recent career he was Senior Representative of JICA Côte d'Ivoire Office (2019-2024), before he was appointed to the present post (Director, Environmental Management and Climate Change Group (Team 1), Global Environment Department, JICA) in September 2024.

Title of Presentation 2

JICA's climate change adaptation policies and initiatives in PICs including the ISPCCR project

Panellist 2 Contribution: (Maximum 250 words, excluding references)

JICA's Global Agenda on Climate Change aims to contribute to the goals of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and building sustainable and resilient societies through strengthening capacity development of partner countries to respond to climate change through promoting co-benefit that pursue both development and climate change measures.

Initiatives by JICA in the Pacific Island Countries （PICs） focus on enhancing climate change resilience to mitigate vulnerabilities associated with climate risks. Key projects encompass capacity development for climate preparedness, disaster risk reduction, infrastructure, water resource management, fishery, and waste management, among other areas.

The Project for Innovative Solutions for Pacific Climate Change Resilience (ISPCCR) is the result of the partnership among Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC), SPREP, the Government of Samoa and JICA. Running from 2024 to 2027, the project strengthens the innovation function of the PCCC and aims to promote fit-for-purpose, cost-effective climate solutions across 14 PICs. Key components of the ISPCCR includes, a global stocktake of innovative climate solutions, multi-level training programs to build regional capacity, support for public-private collaboration and mentoring service to improve access to climate finance.

This presentation will highlight JICA's multi-sectorial cooperation for Pacific Islands for enhancing climate resilience, as well as the initiatives and efforts under the ISPCCR project.

Panellist 3

Full Name: Mr. Matthew Hardwick.

Organisation: Adviser to the Director, Department of Climate Change (DoCC) - Government of the Republic of Vanuatu

Bio (up to 50 words)

Title of Presentation 3

Driving Climate Innovation in the Pacific: Vanuatu's Leadership through SPIFCE and National Strategies for Resilience and Green Growth

(**Panellist 3 Contribution:** Maximum 250 words, excluding references)

Vanuatu is actively advancing legal and policy reforms to foster an enabling environment for climate innovation. These efforts include targeted incentives for green entrepreneurship and strategic investments in climate-resilient infrastructure. Central to

this approach is the Low Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS), which outlines a comprehensive framework for integrating climate science into national planning, promoting sustainable economic growth, and supporting innovation-driven resilience.

As part of its broader innovation agenda, Vanuatu will host the Pacific Innovation Forum for Climate and Environment (SPIFCE) in 2026 in collaboration with SPREP trough the Pacific Climate Change Centre. This event aims to convene stakeholders—including governments, entrepreneurs, NGOs, CSOs, businesses, and academic institutions—who are working on climate change and to protect and restore the Pacific environment. The forum will serve as a regional platform for showcasing innovative technologies and practices, locally led solutions that address climate and environmental challenges.

SPIFCE will also provide capacity-building and networking opportunities to support the replication and scaling of successful initiatives across the Pacific. Held biennially, the forum is designed to foster long-term collaboration, knowledge exchange, and innovation partnerships throughout the region.

This presentation will outline the vision, structure, and expected outcomes of SPIFCE, while also highlighting how it aligns with Vanuatu's national strategies for climate innovation and resilience. Regional and international partners are invited to support and participate in this transformative initiative.

Panellist 4

Full Name: Mr. Santiago Alba, Vice-president, Programs and Partnerships
Organisation: International Development Research Centre

Bio (up to 50 words)

Santiago Alba-Corral, Vice-President of Programs and Partnerships at IDRC, leads research strategy and partnerships. He previously directed climate-resilient food systems and held senior roles at CARE Canada and Action contre la Faim. He holds degrees from Oxford, Cornell, and the University of La Rioja.

Title of Presentation 4

Canada's Commitment to Climate Innovation and Resilience in the Pacific

Panellist 4 Contribution:

As part of its Indo-Pacific Strategy, Canada has committed to strengthening its engagement and support for Pacific Island countries. Through Global Affairs Canada, the Government of Canada has launched its first dedicated development assistance program for the Pacific—an investment of approximately CAD $40 million over five years (2023–2028).

Within this broader effort, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is investing in innovation and research to address climate change and enhance resilience in the Pacific. By funding evidence-based, locally led solutions, IDRC empowers communities to tackle climate challenges with approaches grounded in inclusion, sustainability, and Indigenous and local knowledge.

This presentation will highlight IDRC's contributions to climate innovation in the Pacific, with a focus on the AQUADAPT initiative—a four-year, CAD $24 million partnership with Global Affairs Canada (2023–2027). Operating across Southeast Asia and the Pacific, AQUADAPT supports nature-based solutions in aquaculture food systems through applied, action-oriented research. The initiative seeks to enhance the resilience and sustainability of aquaculture by advancing locally driven approaches that support

climate-vulnerable communities, with a strong emphasis on gender equality and inclusion of marginalized groups.
In the Pacific, AQUADAPT supports applied research across Fiji, Samoa, Kiribati, and the Solomon Islands to strengthen climate resilience, enhance food security, and conserve coastal biodiversity. The initiative emphasizes inclusive stakeholder engagement by working closely with governments, research institutions, Indigenous communities, and women-led groups. Research activities focus on nature-based aquaculture solutions tailored to local ecosystems and community needs. In Fiji, projects are scaling up community-led oyster farming, combining ecosystem restoration with alternative livelihoods. In Samoa and Kiribati, research is advancing sustainable seaweed farming that integrates traditional knowledge with modern processing methods. In the Solomon Islands, mud crab aquaculture is being piloted to provide income opportunities for women and youth while restoring mangrove habitats.

These innovations not only support ecological integrity but also build local capacities, generate evidence for policy uptake, and contribute to regional knowledge-sharing. By embedding equity and sustainability into research design, AQUADAPT demonstrates how targeted investments can amplify Pacific leadership, unlock climate finance opportunities, and deliver scalable, community-driven solutions to complex development challenges.

Hybrid Platform requirements
Please note that a AF2025 has made every effort in budget constraints to encourage hybrid participation. There will be nine hybrid rooms with fixed cameras and technical support. Allocation of hybrid rooms will be made by the Science Committee. Please indicate if you are requesting a hybrid format:

- We request a hybrid format (similar to Zoom/Webinar or Teams).

  Our time zone preferences are…….