

The Pacific Climate Change Science Program

Scott Power, Jo Brown, Rob Colman, Francois Delage, Aurel Moise and Brad Murphy.
*s.power@bom.gov.au, Centre for Australian Weather and Climate Research, Bureau of
Meteorology, Australia*

The Pacific Climate Change Science Program (PCCSP) is a new AUD\$20 million (US\$16m) program to help developing island countries in the Pacific and East Timor gain a better understanding of how climate change will affect the region. The PCCSP provides an exciting opportunity to advance climate change science and to improve climate services provided by partnering National Meteorological Services (NMS). The PCCSP is part of a much broader \$150m (US\$120m) Australian Government initiative called the International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative (ICCAI), which aims to meet high priority climate adaptation needs in vulnerable countries in the Pacific and East Timor. The ICCAI is jointly managed by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and the Australian Department of Climate Change (DCC). The PCCSP will track recent and current regional climate trends in the Pacific region, investigate regional climate drivers, provide regional climate projections, and improve understanding of ocean processes including acidification and sea level rise. The PCCSP will synthesise current knowledge, build on the last Working Group 1 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), produce a major new report on climate change for the Pacific, and contribute to the next assessment reports of the IPCC. The PCCSP will assist with adaptation in future years by improving our understanding of the likely impacts of climate change in the region and by raising awareness of the science among Pacific Island stakeholders.

A summary of research findings to date will be provided. Particular attention will be given to the ability of climate models to simulate climate in the region and to the impact of climate change on the Asian-Australian monsoon, the ITCZ, the SPCZ and ENSO. We will also discuss capacity building of “climate change services” in the National Meteorological Services of 15 developing Partner Countries.