

EWC Analysis About Climate Change



El Niño Strengthens in the Pacific: Preparing for the Impacts of Drought

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A drought is moving through the Pacific Islands, brought by one of the strongest El Niño events since record keeping began 60 years ago. It started in the southwest Pacific, where it has brought famine to Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. It is expected to reach the South Pacific, tropical West Pacific, and Hawaiian Islands between December 2015 and May 2016, potentially affecting 4.7 million people. While the effect of El Niño in the Pacific Islands receives little global attention, it has already proved severe, particularly among vulnerable island populations. Prolonged drought can compromise not only freshwater supplies and food security, but can also have cascading impacts on public health, economies, food distribution, and even trigger civil unrest. Past experiences with regional drought, current actions being taken, and the most current predictions for El Niño's anticipated effects on the Pacific Islands, suggest strategies that governments and aid groups can take to prepare for this powerful climate event.

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EastWestCenter.org/publications

See related publications on climate change on the reverse side.

Also of interest

2015 El Niño and Pacific Islands Fact Sheets

<http://www.pacificrisa.org/2015/11/12/>

El Niño and Its Impacts on American Samoa

El Niño and Its Impacts on Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

El Niño and Its Impacts on Federated States of Micronesia - Pohnpei and Kosrae

El Niño and Its Impacts on Federated States of Micronesia - Yap and Chuuk

El Niño and Its Impacts on The Hawaiian Islands

El Niño and Its Impacts on The Republic of Palau

El Niño and Its Impacts on the Republic of the Marshall Islands

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) fact sheets were developed by the NOAA Hawaii and Pacific Islands ENSO Tiger Team, which includes Pacific RISA, bringing together expertise in El Niño impacts and applied climate science in the Pacific Islands Region. Pacific RISA, the Pacific Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments Program, supports Pacific island and coastal communities in adapting to the impacts of climate variability and change. It is based at the East-West Center.

Related East-West Center Publications

Disaster and Climate Change Preparedness in American Sāmoa: A Handbook for Communities

by Kati Corlew, PhD

Also available in the Sāmoan language:

Sauniuniga mo Puapuaga ma Suiga o le Tau i Amerika Sāmoa

by Kati Corlew, PhD

Disaster and Climate Change Preparedness in Maui: A Handbook for Communities

by Kati Corlew, PhD

Climate Change and Pacific Islands: Indicators and Impacts - Report for the 2012 Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment (PIRCA)

edited by Victoria W. Keener, John J. Marra, Melissa L. Finucane, Deanna Spooner, and Margaret H. Smith

See also:

Executive Summary of the 2012 Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment (PIRCA)

Case Studies from the 2012 Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment (PIRCA)

Symposium on Climate and Extreme Events in Asia Pacific: Enhancing Resilience and Improving Decision Making

by Eileen L. Shea and A.R. Subbiah

See also:

Executive Summary

Preparing for a Changing Climate: The Potential Consequences of Climate Variability and Change

by Eileen L. Shea, Glenn Dolcemascolo, Cheryl L. Anderson, Anthony Barnston, Charles P. (Chip) Guard, Michael P. Hamnett, Stephen T. Kubota, Nancy Lewis, Johannes Loschnigg, and Gerlad Meehl

See also:

Executive Summary

AsiaPacific Issues

- No. 98 ***In Search of Refuge: Pacific Islands, Climate-Induced Migration, and the Legal Frontier***
by Maxine Burkett
- No. 96 ***Cities at Risk: Asia's Coastal Cities in an Age of Climate Change***
by Roland J. Fuchs
- No. 91 ***Forest Communities and REDD Climate Initiatives***
by Mark Poffenberger and Kathryn Smith-Hanssen
- No. 89 ***Why Science Alone Won't Solve the Climate Crisis: Managing Climate Risks in the Pacific***
by Melissa L. Finucane
- No. 66 ***Living with a Climate in Transition: Pacific Communities Plan for Today and Tomorrow***
by Eileen Shea

East-West Dialogue

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by ZhongXiang Zhang with responses by Gary Clyde Hufbauer and Jisun Kim, Raekwon Chung, and Stephen Howes

Pacific Islands Report

<http://pidp.eastwestcenter.org/pireport/>

Top 20 news items from around the Pacific islands region compiled by the Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP) and posted on the Internet five days a week.

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