# **Session 4b.** **Thursday 2 May 2019, 8.40am**

# **Australia-Pacific Performance Space**

# *EU GCCA+ The Climate Security nexus in the Pacific*

**Background**

Derived from the concept of environmental security, climate security has shaped understandings of climate change in the Pacific in the last decade. Climate security has also brought the future of the Pacific into discussions about regional stability, failed states, and refugee crises. However, climate security is not a singular narrative and different discourses of climate security create differing political conditions for action and resource mobilization.

Some key points on the climate-security nexus include:

* The Pacific Islands are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change;
* Direct security impacts may include diminished access to fresh water, local food supply and coastal infrastructure damage;
* For atoll island nations, climate-related sea level rise is an existential threat;
* Areas for cooperation to manage the threat are mitigation, adaptation and response, plus knowledge creation and dissemination in support of those initiatives;
* The Pacific Islands should promote and exploit opportunities for regional collaboration to better manage mitigation, adaptation and response to climate change, and to develop and disseminate better knowledge in support of those activities;

Climate change will present a growing challenge to Pacific Islands’ security for the foreseeable future. Pacific Island countries and territories must seize opportunities for regional collaboration to plan and implement adaptation strategies, and to develop and disseminate science-based knowledge to meet the threat. The European Union (EU) has begun to develop “climate security” strategies that address the strategic and political impacts of climate change. The EU has been incorporating climate-related factors into initiatives designed to predict and prevent conflicts, including by improving governance in resource-stressed states. This session will explore current challenges and opportunities to address the climate-security nexus in the Pacific. In addition, this session will discuss the local and regional approach to solve climate-security issues and analyze how various climate conflict resolution approaches could be integrated in current and future climate programs in the Pacific.

**Session Objective**

1. Review current and emerging the climate-security nexus in the Pacific across various environmental and social sectors;
2. Discuss the technical, management and financial elements for successful and sustainable climate change -security in the region;
3. Stimulate technical and management cooperation for peacebuilding and conflict resolution among various stakeholders in the Pacific.

**Session structure**

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| **Time** | **Items** |
| 14-14:10 | Session presentation (Objective, expected results, session structure) |
| 14:10- 15:10 | Selected Presentations climate-security nexus in the Pacific:  **Dr.Volker Boege,** Senior Research Fellow, Toda Peace Institute, Tokyo,  **Climate Change and Conflict in Oceania**  **Ms. Jane Neilson**, Senior Policy Analyst (Climate Change and Security), NZ Ministry of Defence,  **New Zealand Defence Assessment on Climate Change and Security: The importance of culture and collaboration in mitigating security concerns**  **Dr. Upolu Lumā Vaai**, Principal and Head of Theology & Ethics, Pacific Theological College, Suva, Fiji  **Oceanic Spirituality, Eco-Relational Consciousness, and Climate Security** |
| 15:10-15:30 | Moderated Q&A |
| 15:30- 15:45 | Coffee Break |
| 15:45-16:50 | Group work  Group presentations and discussion |
| 16:50-17:00 | Conclusion |

## **Composition of the Session Preparatory Working Group**

The below are members of preparatory working group for this session:

**Co- Leads:**

* GCCA+ Support Facility: Guido Corno, GCCA+ Support Facility Climate Expert, [Guido.Corno@gcca.eu](mailto:Guido.Corno@gcca.eu)
* Dr.Volker Boege, Honoraty Fellow, [v.boege@uq.edu.au](mailto:v.boege@uq.edu.au)

**Key Documents & Hyperlinks**

* [www.gcca.eu](http://www.gcca.eu)
* [GCCA+ Factsheet](http://gcca.eu/stories/gcca-glance-factsheet)
* <https://apcss.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/C11-ClimateChange-PacIsles-Hauger.pdf>
* <https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/44747/esdc-climate-change-and-impact-security_en>
* <https://climateandsecurity.org/tag/asia-pacific/>