

Submission for Inter-sessional Panel of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD).



The role of science, technology and innovation in building resilient communities, including through the contribution of citizen science.

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File name &

Video Link: [Dr Colin Tukuitonga SPC citizen science in the Pacific FINA: https://youtu.be/gXby8pHqS0c](https://youtu.be/gXby8pHqS0c)

Time: 2 minutes 14 seconds

INTRODUCTION SCRIPT

The role of citizen science is inherently critical to the people of the Pacific. The Pacific region consists of some of the oldest cultures in the world and sits across the most diverse ocean on the planet.

Observation and management of natural resources has been a way of life for Pacific people for thousands of years and today this traditional knowledge is used regularly to understand how to support more resilient communities.

This means more resilient to climate change & disaster, to the impact these have on the natural resources of the region and how resources can be harnessed to increase the resilient nature of the Pacific.

The Pacific Community or S-P-C is the chief scientific and technical agency in the region and it works across more than 20 sectors and supports Pacific Island Countries and Territories by developing scientific and technical solutions to drive increased development and resilience.

This is both traditional scientific approaches and through the use of the inherent traditional cultures of observation and citizen science. The S-P-C is currently working with communities in Vanuatu to monitor their marine environment such as fish stocks, seagrass and health of their environment to develop local interventions led by communities. They are also working on coastal water watch programmes testing coastal water in communities and determining effective interventions overcome local challenges in communities of Palau, Tuvalu and Nauru.

Dr Colin Tukuitonga (TOOK-u-e-tonga) is the Director-General of the Pacific Community. He is a Pacific Islander from the country of Niue (NEW-way) and explains in the video a little bit about why citizen science is inherent to communities and why helping build this form of scientific approach is critical for regions like the Pacific who are on the frontline of climate change and disaster.