The Pacific Climate Change Science Program is dedicated to help Pacific Island countries and East Timor gain a better understanding of how climate change will impact their regions. One of the projects in the Program is “Improving the understanding of tropical cyclone climatology”. In this project, we are further developing the tropical cyclone climatology for the South Pacific Ocean and design a tropical cyclone data portal for the Southern Hemisphere.

A tropical cyclone archive for the Southern Hemisphere has been prepared at the National Climate Centre (Australian Bureau of Meteorology) in collaboration with Météo-France and the Meteorological Services of Fiji and New Zealand and it now consists of best track data for the 1969/70 to 2006/07 tropical cyclone seasons. To provide a user-friendly means for accessing historical tropical cyclone data, a specialised website “Tropical Cyclones in the Southern Hemisphere” (www.bom.gov.au/climate) was developed using the OpenLayers web mapping library. This allows dynamic map navigation, presenting detailed information for a selected region in the Southern Hemisphere and the display of changes in tropical cyclone intensity over the lifetime of a cyclone. Main features of the Southern Hemisphere Tropical Cyclone Data Portal will be presented.