



Kia Ora and Warm Pacific Greetings!

We are honoured to announce [Dr Nassef Youssef](#) will give the opening provocation to the Early Career Climate Workshop on Sunday, October 12 and then will join the opening **Adaptation Futures 2025** keynote plenary on Monday, 13 October.

Dr Youssef is the UNFCCC Director of Adaptation and has led this workstream since its inception. His team covers all of the adaptation workstreams under the international negotiations on climate change including, among others, the Warsaw International mechanism for Loss and Damage, National Adaptation Plans and National Adaptation Programmes of Action.



Recently in Zambia, at the NAP Expo Dr Nassef reminded the world: “Adaptation isn’t a bill we can skip. If we don’t fund it, the poorest pay in lost harvests, poorer health, and – at worst – with their lives.”

We look forward to welcoming Dr Nassef to Aotearoa New Zealand and learning from his insights on ways to accelerate adaptation and build resilience.

We know Dr Nassef’s insights will be welcomed by the AF2025 community working to accelerate adaptation in just and fair ways. There’s still time to [register](#), and please check out all the amazing events on offer, from our [Arts Outreach programme](#) to [post-AF2025 workshops and wānanga](#).

SPREP welcomes the world

Sefanaia Nawadra – the Director General of the [Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme \(SPREP\)](#) – is one of **AF2025's** three esteemed patrons.

We are honoured to share [his video welcome](#) to the 1500 international climate experts gathering in person and online this October. Mr Nawadra outlines why Indigenous and traditional knowledge, alongside western science, will be at the heart of climate action at the event.

As he notes, AF2025 will be an opportunity for Pacific leaders and researchers to share “our lived experience with the impacts of climate change”, which poses “an existential threat... to many of our Pacific Island countries”.

Arrival visas

Another quick reminder about visas. Applications will need to be submitted right away, to ensure they are approved in time for you to travel. We've outlined key details on what international visitors [need to know](#).

If you're from a visa waiver country, please note that New Zealand has recently introduced an [electronic travel authority requirement](#), which must be approved before you fly. These can take up to 72 hours to process.

Please check whether you need a visa or travel authority [here](#).

It's so lovely to know that we'll be welcoming you in not much more than a month!

Bronwyn Hayward and Steven Ratuva
for the **Adaptation Futures 2025** Steering Committee

Living Labs spotlight

On day four, the exciting programme of presentations, wānanga and talanoa shifts to Ōtautahi Christchurch's beautiful Town Hall – and also offers a chance for you to go into the field, with our range of Living Lab events.

If you want to add a Living Lab to your registration, please email af2025@adaptationfutures2025.com.

This week, our featured events focus on two of the more debated areas of climate and biodiversity policy.

Dairy Farming for the Future with an Integral Health Approach will be hosted by Prof Pablo Gregorini, of Lincoln University.

You will visit the university's pioneering dairy farm, which is exploring and implementing ways to promote the resilience of farms, and the comfort of the animals and plants they home in a hotter world – as well as reducing the impact of agribusiness on the environment.



We asked Prof Gregorini a couple of questions.

As an agricultural researcher, do the climate projections worry you?

Yes, quite a lot. A climate of constant change will have physical and mental impacts on people – from water quality issues to a feeling of homesickness, where you feel you don't belong.

Animals are sentient beings too – they have friends, they suffer. They can communicate to us they're in discomfort. In a hotter climate with more drastic events, animals also face impacts to their welfare and wellbeing. The more the climate changes, the more they'll be constrained in their nature, especially by over-farming practices.

Plants may not think, but they definitely communicate with each other, through chemistry.

What are you excited to share with attendees?

Lincoln University's farm is designed for the future, for climate change in a constant climate of change. The animals' wellbeing, their whole health, as well as that of the farmers and the people the farm feeds are key considerations. We use system thinking and complex adaptive system theory. The farm and the herd are designed to cope with climate change – and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

For the wellbeing of animals, we have incorporated woody vegetation that is multifunctional – offering bioactives, as well as shade and shelter.

We've reduced emissions by 25%, by reducing inputs of nitrogen fertiliser and the stocking rate, while maintaining productivity and increasing profitability.

Date and time: Thursday, October 16, 9.30am – 12.30pm

Cost: \$45

Details: Depart Town Hall at 9.30am to drive to the research station. You will return by 12.30pm. Please bring a water bottle, warm clothing and sturdy footwear.

Leader: Prof Pablo Gregorini, Head of the Centre of Excellence: Designing Future Productive Landscapes, Lincoln University

River Resilience and Water Security: Planning for and Adapting to Changes in Water

Availability is hosted by Environment Canterbury.

Dr Fiona Shanahan will lead the group on a tour through mid-Canterbury's braided river systems and the Rangitata River Diversion Race. Amongst stunning scenery, you will learn about the region's unique braided river systems and associated challenges with flood protection infrastructure. You will hear how the community balances environmental and social priorities: ensuring rivers have space to breathe whilst still supporting climate and community resilience.



We asked Dr Shanhun two questions.

What makes braided rivers special?

They feature active river channels that laterally migrate, so provide a dynamic, shifting mosaic of habitats. Specialised flora and fauna have adapted to this dynamic braided river environment, so these systems have high ecological significance.

Braided rivers are also seen as a valuable resource for electricity generation, irrigation, and gravel for construction. Management of braided rivers has become a balancing act to sustainably use resources and prevent flooding while maintaining ecological functioning and indigenous habitats.

What challenges do braided rivers, and their neighbours, face in future?

Some rivers are artificially stabilised with flood protections. Land on the braidplain has been developed for urban and agricultural uses, including damming and gravel extraction. Water availability is another challenge. There are linkages between surface and groundwater, but these are not well understood. Water extraction and river engineering reduces groundwater recharge, and vice-versa – over-extraction of groundwater impacts surface water habitats and water availability.

Date and time: Thursday, October 16, 9am – 6pm

Cost: \$65

Details: Depart Town Hall at 9am for a 1.5+ hour drive to the braided river, and arrive back for 6pm. A packed lunch will be provided.

Leader: Dr Fiona Shanhun, Environment Canterbury

Support from the Ministry for the Environment is enabling the Living Lab programme of events. We are so grateful for this tautāwhi.

Ngā mihi nui! Vinaka! Thank you!

We look forward to welcoming you to AF2025. We'll be in touch again soon!

In the meantime, visit www.adaptationfutures2025.com for more information, including the programme for AF2025.

If you know a colleague or friend who would benefit from attending, here's how you can tell them more:

- Forward this newsletter to them, or point them towards [previous editions](#)
- Ask them to sign up for our [mailing list](#)

- Follow us on [Bluesky](#)
- Follow us on [LinkedIn](#)
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Adaptation Futures, the flagship event of the United Nations World Adaptation Science Programme (WASP), is the world's premier climate change adaptation conference. It enables leading practitioners, policy makers, researchers, thought leaders and academics from across the globe to gather to collaborate and inspire urgent efforts to accelerate adaptation for a more resilient climate and fairer future.

The 2025 event is co-hosted by WASP and Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury New Zealand. It is supported by New Zealand government agencies, national and international research organisations and businesses, and foundation sponsor The Adaptation Fund. The event will be held in Ōtautahi Christchurch, New Zealand, this October.

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