

The Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership: a regional coordinated response to meeting weather and climate services development in the Pacific Islands region.

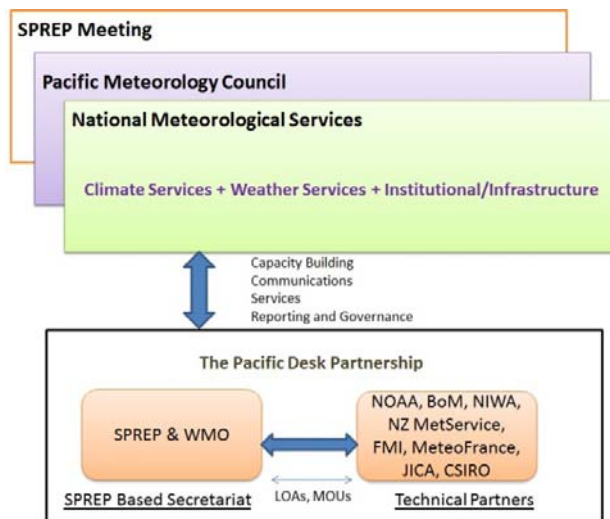
Background

By the endorsement from the 21st SPREP Meeting, Madang, PNG, 2011, for the Secretariat to form a Pacific Desk based on the recommended next steps from the Review of Regional Meteorological Services, a new Pacific Island regional mechanism urgently needed to develop capacity and advance the sustainability of weather and climate services in Pacific Islands has been designed. We propose the establishment of a **Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership (PMDP)**.

Design and arrangements

The Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership will serve as the regional weather and climate services coordination mechanism managed by the SPREP Secretariat to deliver a regionally coordinated effort to service SPREP Members needs in the area of weather and climate services. The Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership will be comprised of two core components;

- i. a Secretariat based component - an arrangement of Secretariat resources (staffing) and dedicated Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership resources.
- ii. a Partners' Consortium component - the arrangement of technical partner agencies to the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership and includes the organization of their related activities and outputs (note that donor partners are included elsewhere in a governance role rather than in this arrangement).



The Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership is made up of two core components as described below. Both components play specific roles and interact closely together to provide combined efforts and outputs as a single Desk function.

i. The Apia Secretariat Component

This component is made up of the Apia-based Secretariats of SPREP and the WMO working in close collaboration, and represents two key coordination elements:

- Overall coordination and leadership of the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership function in terms of linking national and regional priority needs,
- Overall reporting responsibility of the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership function to the SPREP Meeting and the Pacific Meteorological Council, including monitoring and evaluation

ii. *The Partners Component*

The Partners Component refers to the collective of technical expert institutions that will form the key technical expertise that will be delivered to build the capacity of Pacific NMS. Key SPREP partners institutions include the US NOAA, Australian Bureau of Meteorology, New Zealand MetService and NIWA, JICA among others. The Partners component will look to deliver focused capacity building in areas such as:

- Meteorologist, climatologist and technician training,
- End user services and products for agriculture, fisheries, water resource management etc.,
- Infrastructural support in expanding and maintaining observation networks, meteorological telecommunications hardware and software, database management systems etc.,

PMDP Tasks

The Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership is to *improve regional coordination and advancing and sustaining the delivery of weather, climate and related services* for the protection of life and property of Pacific island communities including the following:

- coordination role and secretariat for the PMC
- coordination of PICT national and regional priority needs with regard to weather and climate services development
- joint planning and design of technical projects and programmes for delivery by technical agencies to build on complementation and replication of efforts, and minimizing inefficient resource use
- governance relationship through Pacific Meteorological Council and implementation guidance through use of Pacific Strategic Action Plan for Meteorology 2012 – 2015.
- mobilising resources to support the activities of the PMC and NMS
- mobilise and share information with PMC and NMS
- monitoring, evaluation and reporting to PMC and SPREP Meeting

Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership Key Results

The improved coordination mechanism offered by the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership should see overall a better coordination of capacity building activities and programmes put in place at the national and regional levels, benefiting all SPREP Members. Advantages in utilizing the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership strategy include:

- improved highlighting, profiling, and tracking of individual country needs and monitoring of progress
- improved assessment of shared national needs/regional priorities
- improved coordination and making efficient targeted capacity building priorities of Partners Consortium
- matching specific country needs with specific technical expertise of Partners Consortium
- Desk flexibility to expand Partners Consortium where needed to resource expertise required by SPREP Members (e.g. invitation of GCM modeling expert agencies like UKMO, ECMWF)
- SPREP monitoring of regional progress against PIFACC and DRRM frameworks
- Improved visibility of NMS issues at national level and Leaders level
- Incorporation of Regional Strategy will provide regional strategic guide for implementation of needs
- Incorporation of Pacific Meteorology Council to provide high level overview and guidance on implementation of Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership
- Collective efforts in this coordination could lead to a development of a trust fund to fund needs of PICs