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*The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.*

## Twenty Sixth SPREP Meeting of Officials

Apia, Samoa  
22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015

### **Agenda Item 10.2.2: Outcomes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-3) and the 1<sup>st</sup> Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM-1)**

#### **Purpose**

1. To report on the outcomes of the third meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-3) and the 1<sup>st</sup> Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM-1) supporting sustainable weather and climate services for a resilient Pacific.
2. To seek the support and commitment of Members and development partners for the outcomes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pacific Meteorological Council and the *Nuku'alofa Declaration for Sustainable Weather and Climate Services for a Resilient Pacific* as endorsed by the PMMM-1

#### **Background**

3. The Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC), was established by the SPREP Council meeting in 2011 and guided by the Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy (PIMS) 2012-2021, has served as the regional mechanism through which meteorological and hydrological services in the region coordinate their activities. SPREP and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) provide secretariat support for both PMC and the Ministerial Meeting through the Pacific Meteorological Partnership Desk (PMPD). The PMPD is the modality adopted by SPREP and its partners for coordinating the implementation of PIMS and for facilitating and convening the PMC bi-annual meetings.
4. SPREP and partners have contributed tremendously to the meteorological activities in the region. In particular,
  - i. PMC members continue to build their capacity and improve information gathering, dissemination and application of information to early warning systems, resource management, development planning, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction and management.

- ii. Capacity Development and training opportunities were offered through various training programs from WMO, United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (US NOAA) and the University of Hawai'i, and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)
- iii. The United Kingdom Meteorological Office (UKMO) is supporting the upper air operations of the Meteorological services in Kiribati, Tuvalu and Cook Islands
- iv. The Government of the Republic of Korea through the Pacific Islands Forum has engaged SPREP and the APEC<sup>1</sup> Climate Centre (APCC) to establish a Republic of Korea- Pacific Islands Climate Services Prediction Services Project (RoK-PI CLIPS) for 3 years (2017)
- v. WMO is also providing support to the Pacific through SPREP in providing funds for selected priority activities to assist the region to strengthen their coordination mechanisms such as the first Pacific islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF) to be held in Suva in October 2015, including the National Climate Outlook Forums in Kiribati, Tonga and Papua New Guinea, and to explore opportunities to establish a Regional Climate Centre (different from the Pacific Climate Change Centre - PCCC)
- vi. The Climate and Oceans Support Program for the Pacific (COSPPac) project has agreed to transition products to SPREP and other regional agencies, as a key element of their approach to ensure sustainability of the project. COSPPac has also launched an Ocean Portal (<http://cosppac.bom.gov.au/products-and-services/ocean-portal>)

5. In April 2014, with the guidance and endorsement of the SPREP meeting in 2013, the Pacific Island Climate Services (PICS) Panel was established to provide an advisory role to PMC members on climate services matters in the region as well as the implementation of the Global Framework on Climate Services (GFCs) and PIMS. The PICS Panel has now had 2 meetings and has made considerable progress in its implementation plan.

6. The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the PMC was held in Nuku'alofa, in the Kingdom of Tonga from 20-23 July 2015 followed by the 1<sup>st</sup> Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM-1) on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2015. The meeting's theme was: *Sustainable weather and climate services for a Resilient Pacific* and was supported by SPREP, the Government of Finland, through the FINPAC project, WMO, the Government of Tonga, US NOAA, BoM and APCC. There were over 80 Participants in the PMC-3 meeting including representatives from Member Countries and Territories, partner organizations such as the World Meteorological Organisation, CROP agencies, observers and regional media funded by the FINPAC project and PACMAS.

7. WMO and SPREP signed two LoAs during the PMMM-1; the first to continue their Pacific Met Desk Partnership collaborations. The current LoA expires end of 2015. The second is a major new two year LoA which will significantly support and strengthen implementation of the PIMS.

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<sup>1</sup> APEC - Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

8. The PMC-3 meeting updated participants on implementation of the Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy 2012-2021: reports provided showed that there has been considerable progress on meteorology in the region, with over USD\$20 million per year invested by member countries of the Pacific on meteorology, and that Pacific National Meteorological Services employing over 600 personnel (technical and administrative staff). These figures do not include the metropolitan members of SPREP. The *Key Recommendations Endorsed by PMC-3* is attached as Annex 1 to this paper. (WP.10.2.2/Att1). Some of the Key recommendations include:

- i. the further establishment of technical working groups for;
  - o **Aviation Weather Services** (advise with the implementation of Aviation Weather Services, including looking at Quality Management, safe skies for aviation over the Pacific and Cost Recovery)
  - o **Marine and Oceans Services** (including ocean observing, marine weather, coastal inundation and hazards, and tsunami monitoring and early warning systems)
  - o **Training, Education and Research** (focusing on the training needs of National Meteorology Services in the region including the establishment of a Regional Training Centre)
- ii. the effective partnership with the media to disseminate critical information to remote communities in the Pacific, including the meteorology and media roundtable meeting;
- iii. exploring the establishment of a fund for Pacific emergency meteorological communications
- iv. the continued support for critical services such as the Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project (SWFDP)
- v. the need for the continued support of ocean observing efforts in the region such as the Argo Program

9. The PMMM-1 held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2015, was attended by Ministers of Member Countries and Territories responsible for Meteorology or their designated senior government officials. There were over 100 participants who attended the PMMM-1, including 9 state Ministers, 2 high commissioners, 4 senior government officials and 5 NMHSs directors. The outcome of this meeting was the endorsement of the *Nuku'alofa Ministerial Declaration for Sustainable Weather and Climate Services for a Resilient Pacific* attached as Annex 2 to this paper (WP.10.2.2/Att2).

## Recommendations

10. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note the** *Key Recommendations* from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council and where appropriate, for member countries and partners to commit resources;
- **commend** the members of the PMC for their vital contribution to the safety of the people of the Pacific through improving and expanding the delivery of weather and climate services in the region;

- **commend the** *Nuku'alofa Ministerial Declaration for Sustainable Weather and Climate Services for a Resilient Pacific* by the PMMM-1 and where appropriate, for member countries and partners to commit resources and to prioritize meteorological, marine, and hydrological services;
- **welcome** the WMO continued support for the implementation of the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy through the Pacific Met Desk Partnership and the signing of two LoA during the PMC ministerial meeting;
- **commend** the people and the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga for the excellent facilities and hosting of the PMC-3 and the PMMM-1;
- **note** the importance of and the need to support the Argo Program, and that the SPREP PI-GOOS Officer and US Argo Program staff will approach the Members to discuss the program;
- **acknowledge** the regional and international partners who have made financial and in-kind contributions to SPREP in the ongoing work to strengthen meteorological services in the region, including from the Government of Finland, Korea, Australia, United States of America and WMO; and
- **note** that the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PMC and the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the PMMM will be held in the Solomon Islands in 2017.

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## Attachments

- Annex 1: Key Recommendations for the PMC Endorsement (WP.10.2.2/Att1).
- Annex 2: Nuku'alofa Ministerial Declaration for Sustainable Weather and Climate Services for a Resilient Pacific (WP.10.2.2/Att2).