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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
22nd – 24th September 2015

Agenda Item 10.2.4: Climate Services Programmes *(FINPAC, Climate Services and ROK – PI CLIPS, COSPPac, PACCSAP)*

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide Members with an update on progress made by the Secretariat and its partners in relation to meteorology and climatology activities that are contributing to building the capacity of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in the region. This paper is linked to Agenda Item 10.2.2

2. To seek the support and commitment of Members to the on-going development of NMHSs and the regional Climate Services programmes developed and implemented by SPREP.

Background

Global Framework for Climate Services

3. The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) was established in 2009, through a high-level declaration at World Climate Conference Three (WCC-3) organized by World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and other United Nations agencies, Governments and partners to guide the development of climate services worldwide. The vision of the Global Framework for Climate Services is to enable society to better manage the risks and opportunities arising from climate variability and change especially for those who are most vulnerable through the development and incorporation of science-based climate information and prediction into planning, policy and practices.

Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC)

4. The PMC serves as the regional mechanism through which meteorological and hydrological services in the region coordinate their activities, to build capacity and improve information gathering, dissemination and application of information on early warnings, resource management, development planning, climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk management. SPREP and the (WMO) provide secretariat support for the PMC through the Pacific Meteorological Partnership Desk (PMPD). The PMPD is the modality adopted by SPREP and its partners for serving the needs of the national meteorological services, PMC and their bi-annual meetings. The 3rd meeting of the PMC and the 1st Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology were held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga from 20-23 July 2015, the outcomes of which are reported on in WP 10.2.2.

Pacific Islands Climate Services (PICS) Panel

5. The Pacific Islands Climate Services Panel was endorsed by the second Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-2) in July 2013 and established in early April 2014 at the SPREP/WMO workshop on implementing the Global Framework for Climate Services in the Pacific, in Rarotonga, Cook Islands. The PICS Panel aims to 'Improve coordination, continuity and integration of projects, programmes and initiatives that support climate services at national, regional and global levels; strengthen the basic and core functions and capabilities of NMHSs for robust and sustained data collection and management, analysis of data and quality assurance, production and dissemination of products, research and modeling; enhance avenues and modes of multi-way communication and feedback between climate services providers and users to enhance the uptake and use of relevant and tailored climate services down to the communities and individuals.'

Finland-Pacific (FINPAC) Project on Reduced Vulnerability of Pacific Island Countries' livelihoods to the effects of climate change

6. The FINPAC Project continues to support a range of activities including the work of the Pacific Islands Climate Services Panel. SPREP collaboration with WMO and COSPPac (refer points 10 and 11 below) on the development of a Climate Services Compendium of Case Studies for the Pacific aims at building the capacity of NMHSs in documenting good practices and lessons learnt on climate services in the Pacific. A write-shop targeted at Climate Services specialists from NMHSs was held early July 2015 to support this process. Community Climate and Disaster Resilience planning workshops continue to provide a platform for the NMHSs to engage communities to learn about weather and climate services and share constructive feedback on how the information can better prepare them for climate and disasters. These are delivered through partnerships with the Red Cross as community mobilizers, the National Disaster Management Offices and NMHSs. Media and communications trainings continue to provide the opportunity to strengthen the capacity of NMHSs and national media for effective delivery of weather and climate information to the users especially those at grassroots levels.

Republic of Korea-Pacific Project

7. The Government of Korea through the Pacific Islands Forum engaged SPREP and the APEC[1] Climate Centre (APCC) to establish a Republic of Korea- Pacific Islands Climate Prediction Services Project (RoK-PI CLIPS) for 3 years (2014-2016). The project will strengthen the adaptive capacity of Pacific communities to climate risks at the seasonal timescales through strengthening the NMHSs[2] capacity through the provision of tailored climate prediction information using a region-specific system. The project scope will build upon APCC's real-time global climate prediction information and will be supported by the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership. A successful regional training and inception workshop was conducted in the Kingdom of Tonga, on 15-17th July 2015 and attended by representatives from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

[1] APEC - Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
[2] NMHSs - National Meteorological and Hydrological Services

Island Climate Update (ICU)

8. The Island Climate Update is coordinated by the New Zealand National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) with financial support from the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Aid Programme, with additional support from SPREP. The Island Climate Update is a monthly summary of the climate in the tropical South Pacific islands, with a seasonal outlook for the coming months. This bulletin is a multi-national project with collaboration from a number of Pacific islands and supported by various organisations. The Secretariat continues to support the dissemination of the ICU throughout the Pacific Islands. Pacific islands and Territories that participate in the Island Climate Update include Austral Islands, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marquesas, New Caledonia, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Island, Samoa, Society Islands, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuamotu Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna. More information on: https://www.niwa.co.nz/climate/icu

Pacific ENSO Application Climate (PEAC) Center

9. The Pacific ENSO Applications Center (PEAC) within the United States National Ocean and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA) was established in August 1994 as a multi-institutional partnership to conduct research and produce information products on climate variability and impacts related to the El Niño–Southern Oscillation climate cycle for the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI). The name of the center was changed to Pacific ENSO Applications Climate (PEAC) Center in 2007. Over the years, the PEAC Center effectively provided advanced warning as part of the hazard management program for the small island countries in the USAPI region which includes American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Hawaii and Palau. The forecast, warning, and response experience of PEAC has helped small island countries in the Pacific develop adaptation strategies for longer time-scale climate variability and change.

Collaboration with Climate and Ocean Support Services project in the Pacific (COSPPac) Project

10. The Climate and Ocean Support Services project is funded by the Australian Government and implemented by the Bureau of Meteorology. The program works with Pacific Island stakeholders to analyse and interpret climate, ocean and tidal data to help island communities prepare for, and mitigate the impacts of severe climate, tidal and oceanographic events.

11. COSPPac is partnering with fourteen Pacific Islands countries: the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The program consists of the fifth phase of the South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project, the third phase of the Pacific Islands Climate Prediction Project a new Capacity Development and Communications program and a Management Unit within the Bureau of Meteorology. BoM and DFAT have initiated a transition process to ensure sustainability of the products and tools to the region, including some products to SPREP. COSPPac has also launched a Ocean Portal (http://cosppac.bom.gov.au/products-and-services/ocean-portal/) and continue to provide support to Seasonal Climate Prediction in the region through the Online Climate Outlook Forum (OCOF).

Collaboration with Pacific-Australia Climate Strategy Adaptation Project (PACCSAP)

12. The Pacific-Australia Climate Strategy Adaptation Project funded by DFAT, managed by the Department of the Environment provided critical climate scientific research and commenced important steps in capacity building in the Pacific Island countries particularly National Meteorological Services. Building on the success of Pacific Climate Change Science Program (PCCSP), the project continues to work with 15 partner countries: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Timor Leste to help generate scientific insights into the state of climate change in the Pacific now and in the future. http://www.pacificclimatechangescience.org/

Recommendations

13. The Meeting is invited to:

- **welcome t**he generosity and commitment of regional and international partners for the ongoing projects to strengthen the delivery of climate services in the region, including WMO and the Governments of Finland, Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, United States of America; and
- **encourage** Members to support the on-going development of their National Meteorology and Hydrological Services and SPREP's efforts to support them.

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8 July 2015