

31st SPREP MEETING OF OFFICIALS

5, 6, and 7 September 2023, Apia, Samoa

Agenda item 9.1.2: Pacific Meteorological Council and associated Meeting Outcomes including the Weather Ready Pacific

Purpose of the paper:

1. Provide an update on the outcomes of the:
 - a. Joint Joint Meeting of the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs)
 - b. 6th meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-6)
 - c. Donor and Development Partners Engagement Meeting
 - d. and 3rd Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM)-3.
2. Provide update on the Weather Ready Pacific; and
3. To seek the support and commitment of Members and development partners for the outcomes of the 6th Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-6) and the Weather Ready Pacific

Background

4. The Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC), was established by the SPREP Council meeting in 2011, 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 Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy (PIMS) and for facilitating and convening the PMC bi-annual meetings.
5. The following meetings were held with the PMC-6

2023 Dates	Meeting	Who will attend
9 August	COSPPac Steering Committee Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directors of 14 NMHSs • Implementing Partners (Australian Bureau of Meteorology, SPREP, SPC, Geoscience Australia) • Lands and Survey
10-11 August	Joint Meeting between the National Disaster Management Offices and National Meteorological Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directors, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services • Directors, National Disaster Management Offices • Development Partners • Donors

12 August	6 PMC Panel Meetings (1)- Aviation, (2) Oceans and Marine, (3) Education, Research and Training, (4) Climate, (5) Infrastructure and Communications and (6) Hydrology)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directors, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services • Meteorological Community • Private Sector, NGO's • Universities and technical institutes
14-16 August	Sixth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directors, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services • Directors, National Disaster Management Offices • Meteorological Community • Private Sector • Development Partners • Donors
16-18 August	Private Sector Display and Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Private Sector companies provided displays on the latest technologies and allowed all participants the opportunity to participate
17 August	First Development Partners and Donors Engagement Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directors, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services • Development Partners • Donors
18 August	3 rd Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM-3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministers responsible for Meteorology • Directors, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services • Development Partners • Donors

6. The 6th meeting of the PMC, the Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology and associated meetings was held in Nadi, in the Fiji from 9-18th August 23. The PMC-6 was held on the 14th – 16th August 2023 was funded by SPREP, the Government of Fiji, World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the CREWS Secretariat, the EU funded Intra ACP Pacific Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA) Project, CREWS Secretariat, DFAT Australia through the Climate and Oceans Support Programme (COSPPac), Varysian, the VanKIRAP Project. There were over 250 participants in the PMC-6 meeting including representatives from Member Countries and Territories including those from the host Country, partner organizations such as the World Meteorological Organisation and other UN organisations, CROP agencies and other observers.
7. Official members of PMC are the directors or heads of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of the SPREP Member Countries. Partner agencies attended as observers. The PMC-6 Agenda is structured according to the goals and objectives of the PMC Panels which focused on the priority areas of climate services, aviation services, education, training and research, marine and ocean services, communication and infrastructure services.

8. Arrangements of the Meetings:

Wed 9Aug	Thu 10Aug	Fri 11Aug	Sat 12Aug	Sun 13Aug	Mon 14Aug	Tue 15Aug	Wed 16Aug	Thu 17Aug	Fri 18Aug
COSPPac Meeting (Novotel Hotel)	Joint Meeting between NMHSs and NDMO (Novotel Hotel)	PMC Panel Meeting (Novotel Hotel)	<i>(Optional) Activities co-ordinated by Fiji Met Service</i>	PMC-6 Meeting (Sofitel Resort)		2 Parallel side events (Lunch)	Donor and Development Partners Engagement (Sofitel Resort)	PMMM-3 (Sofitel Resort)	
				PMC-6 Meeting (Sofitel Resort)					Ministerial Briefing (Sofitel Resort)
Dinner hosted by FMS				Opening sunset event			Closing sunset event	Ministerial Dinner	
								HydrometPAC- Private Sector Display and Engagement	

9. Outcomes of the Joint Meeting between NMHSs and NDMO:

- i. Recommended that SPREP and SPC facilitate the establishment of a structured mechanism to foster collaboration and interaction between providers and users of early warning information, which will contribute to building a resilient Pacific including through the Weather Ready Pacific.
 - ii. Recommended that SPREP and SPC work together to support the mechanism alongside key partners WMO, UNDRR, Pacific Disability Forum and others <regional actors>.
 - iii. Recommended that joint meetings of the NMHS, NDMO and other relevant stakeholders, be held when the opportunities arise.
10. The Report of the Joint Meeting is attached as Attachment 1.
11. The outcomes of the 6 PMC Expert Panels were discussed at the PMC-6 and recommendations are included in the Report attached as Attachment 2.
12. The PMC-6 was attended by Director or heads of NMHSs or their representatives from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States of America and Vanuatu. The outcomes and all the recommendations from PMC-6 are in the Report which is attached as Attachment 2 of this paper.
13. On the Progress and Update on the Weather Ready Pacific, the PMC-6 provided the following recommendations;
- i. **Noted** the significant progress made on the Weather Ready Pacific to date and encouraged members to continue working towards program implementation.
 - ii. **Acknowledged** the Government of Tonga for presenting the Weather Ready Pacific to the Leaders meeting in 2021.
 - iii. **Acknowledged** the effort and support of SPREP, Government of Australia including the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, Government of Tonga including the Tonga Meteorological Service, the Government of New Zealand, World

Meteorological Organisation and Members of the Council for progressing the work of the Weather Ready Pacific Initiative.

- iv. **Acknowledged** with appreciation the Government of Australia for providing the initial funding support of AUD30 million and invite development partners and donors to invest in this decadal programme.
 - v. **Recognised** that the Infrastructure investment under the Weather Ready Pacific is the most critical infrastructure for addressing the climate emergency in the Pacific.
 - vi. **Recommended** for the Weather Ready Pacific to be established as the programme to coordinate the wider implementation of people-centred end-to-end multi-hazard early warning systems for all Pacific island countries and territories.
14. On the Weather Ready Pacific Governance Structure, the PMC-6 recommended the following;
- i. **Agreed** to the Variation Option for Governance and requested the Secretariat to engage with donors and development partners to develop the mechanism to operationalise for pre-approval out of session by the PMC by the end of September, 2023.
 - ii. **Acknowledged** Australia and New Zealand's offer of support to assist SPREP to enable the way forward.
 - iii. **Agreed** to the Hybrid Investment Facility and request the Secretariat to engage with donors and development partners to develop the mechanism to operationalise for PMC approval out of session by end of September, 2023.
 - iv. **Requested** the Secretariat to engage with donors and development partners to develop the implementation plan that will outline the next steps to bring Weather Ready Pacific to fruition for approval by the PMC out of session by the end of October, 2023.
 - v. **Agreed** that implementation to start with the key priority outcomes from the PMC Panels and urgent needs within the PIMS Framework.
15. Development Partners and Donors Engagement Meeting was attended by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), European Union, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), World Bank, USAID, World Meteorological Organization, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction, JICA and other development partners, as well as private sector representatives that met, discussed and agreed to the following;
- a. Establishment of the Pacific Partnership Coordination Mechanism (PPCM) (Attachment 3) and this was also endorsed by the PMMM-3.
 - b. Launched the PPCM Dash Board for coordinating existing projects (Link).
 - c. The discussion on opportunities by the Development Partners is attached in Attachment 4).
16. The 3rd Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM-3) was held on the 18th August. The main outcome of the PMMM-3 is outlined in the **Namaka Ministerial Declaration for a Sustainable Weather, Climate, Ocean and Water Services for a Resilient Blue Pacific**. The Namaka Ministerial Declaration elevated some of the key recommendations of the PMC-6 attached as Attachment 5.

17. The Report that captured the exchange during the meeting is attached as Attachment 6 of this paper.

The objectives of the PMC-6 and the PMMM-3 were to:

- I. Continue to facilitate coordination, networking, sharing of information and discussions among PMC's members, development partners, CROP agencies, United Nations' agencies, collaborating organisations and institutions on current status and advancement of weather, climate, water and ocean services in support of national development and a resilient Pacific;
 - II. Discuss the Weather Ready Pacific Programme of Investment and its governance framework
 - III. Review the progress in the implementation of the "*Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy*" through the PMC Panel;
 - IV. Provide an opportunity for NDMO as well as national stakeholders to participate in the PMC.
18. The PMMM-3 provided a platform for Ministers responsible for Meteorology to elevate the priorities of the NMHSs through the Namaka Ministerial Declaration for Sustainable Weather, Climate, Oceans and Water Services for a Sustainable Blue Pacific.

Recommendations

19. The Meeting is invited to:
 - 1) **Note** the outcomes of the Joint Meeting between the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and the National Disaster Management Offices (NDMO)
 - 2) **Note** the establishment of the Pacific Partnership Coordination Mechanism and the Dashboard to assist the coordination of development partners on Early Warning Systems in the Pacific
 - 3) **Note** the outcomes of the 6th Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council
 - 4) Note the Progress made on the Weather Ready Pacific and acknowledge the financial contribution of the Government of Australia of AUD30 million and the support of the Government of New Zealand
 - 5) **Note** the Weather Ready Pacific Governance Structure and finance facility recommended by the PMC
 - 6) **Note** and support the **Namaka Ministerial Declaration for a Sustainable Weather, Climate, Ocean and Water Services for a Resilient Blue Pacific**
 - 7) **Request** development partners to invest in the Weather Ready Pacific as the programme to coordinate the wider implementation of people-centred end-to-end multi-hazard early warning systems for all Pacific island countries and territories and coordinate their efforts on end-to-end people-centered multi-hazard Early Warning Systems through the Pacific Partnership Coordination Mechanism and the Dashboard.

25 August 2023