

Calling Pacific media!

Seize the perfect opportunity to learn more on key weather and climate issues and to enhance your reporting skills. Join us for a mana masterclass on the sidelines of the Eighth Pacific Meteorological Council Meeting and the Fourth Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology in the Kingdom of Tonga from 21 to 25 September 2026. The theme is Weather “Ready for a Secure and Sustainable Blue Pacific”.

Our Pacific realities

As Pacific Islanders, we all know how crucial the weather and climate is to our daily lives and livelihoods. Each year our planet reaches record scorching temperatures, we are reminded of how extreme weather events are intensifying due to climate change, yet for us the stakes are much higher.

Every Pacific Islander that grew up and still lives on our islands understands the essential role that weather and climate play in our lives. Our traditional knowledge is built around weather events; we buckle down each cyclone season, prepare for droughts and, when disasters strike, watch in despair how the threat upon our lives and livelihoods is made more evident.

Pacific media opportunities

From 17 to 18 September this year, we are holding a regional media workshop to help build the capacity of our Pacific Islands media living and working in the region to report on weather and climate. This is your opportunity to build your networks with weather and climate experts from across our Pacific island region and across the world.

Selected journalists will also cover the 8th Pacific Meteorological Council Meeting and the 4th Pacific Meteorology Ministers Meeting from 21 to 25 September as part of a Pacific News Team. You will be encouraged to report for your media organisation and national audience, as well as have your coverage of the events be shared across our Pacific Islands region with support from the PMC2026 Pacific Media Team.

This Media Mana Class is coordinated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Pacific Community with support from the Australia and New Zealand Government- funded Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac).

We are now calling for Expressions of Interest from Pacific Islands’ journalists working and living in the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands (RMI), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu or Vanuatu to be part of this work.

This EOI will close on 19 June 2026

Empowering Pacific Media to amplify weather and climate stories for resilience

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Dates

You will need to be available to travel and land in Tonga from approximately 16 September to 26 September.

Our partnership with you

If selected our role will be to:

- Fund and facilitate your travel and provide DSA inclusive of that for your transits as per your
- Coordinate capacity building and introduce you to a range of weather, climate and meteorological experts from across our Pacific Islands region and beyond.
- Facilitate the workshop inclusive of networking opportunities
- Provide you with the support needed to enhance your ability to report on weather and climate.
- Manage the PMC2026 Pacific Media Team and support coverage.
- Provide you with a reference upon completion of this activity.
- Add you to the Pacific media network for legacy support after the activity.

We asked that selected journalists:

- Ensure that your visa (transit and otherwise) is secure and funded.
- Check that your passport is eligible noting the six-month expiry requirements.
- Secure your own accommodation in Tonga, noting we can provide support with that.
- Develop at least two pieces of content each day for the duration of the PMC8 and 4PMM.
- Attach a letter of support from your Editor committing to publish or broadcast the content developed through your news outlet.

What we fund:

The training will be funded through The Australia and New Zealand government-supported COSPPac Program. SPC will facilitate your travel, DSA and accommodation and will organise the most economic and direct return flights to Tonga, as well as provide a daily allowance (including incidental) for the duration of the activity in Tonga. Participants are advised to arrange their accommodation, with SPC providing recommendations on accommodation options.

You will be responsible for covering costs of your visas should this be needed, as well as your travel insurance. We can provide you with a supporting letter for your visa application.

Application criteria

Applicants must have an eligible passport noting the 6 months' validity requirement before the date of travel.

You must be a Pacific Islands Journalist residing and working in the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands (RMI), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu or Vanuatu.

Applicants must be employed by a media organisation in the country they live in, noting that we are accepting print, television and radio channels.

You must be able to bring your own equipment to develop content, inclusive of a laptop. Other such equipment may include a camera (video and still), sound recorder etc.

Applicants should be able to speak and produce media content in English as well as their own language/s.

Your application must be accompanied by a Letter from your Editor confirming that the content you develop will be published or broadcast through your media organisation, and that SPREP also has permission to use and distribute your content while displaying your byline, name of media organisation and link to website.

Selection process

If you wish to be considered for this unique opportunity, please complete the form below. Prepare a brief about your employment and experience in journalism and, in less than 200 words, pitch a story about the Met Service products in your country, or the weather and climate. If you are able to provide links to 3-5 stories you may have done in your country that would be great.

We ask that you include a support letter from your employer or Editor for you to travel to Tonga and to publish or broadcast the content you will generate. All submissions will be reviewed by an SPC/SPREP Panel.

To submit your form please visit: <https://forms.gle/RZp73J35DEwChc9dA>