

Agenda

Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF 14) - Hybrid

Venue: Shangri-La hotel, Sigatoka, Fiji Islands

16 April 2024

The Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF) is based on the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) <https://public.wmo.int/en/our-mandate/climate/regional-climate-outlook-products> Regional Climate Outlook Forum concept.

The PICOF is co-organized by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), with technical support provided by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), APEC Climate Centre (APCC), Meteo-France, US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Pacific Community (SPC) and the University of Hawaii) as members of the Pacific Regional Climate Network (RCC) Node for Long-Range Forecasting in partnership with the Pacific Islands Climate Services (PICS) Panel. The latter ensures the needs of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), and their stakeholders are met. PICOF sessions are co-sponsored by the WMO through CREWS Pacific SIDS Project, funded by the CREWS Initiative and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). BOM, NIWA, SPREP and SPC support is largely provided via the Australian and New Zealand Aid funded Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific.

Additional information on PICOF and the WMO Pacific RCC Network is available via <https://www.pacificmet.net/rcc>

Overall objective: To discuss and produce objective, user-relevant regional climate and ocean outlook guidance in real time to support Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) NMHSs produce national climate and oceans climate information for their national stakeholders, with the ultimate aim to reduce climate-related risks and support sustainable development for the coming season in sectors of critical socioeconomic significance. PICOF will for the first time in April 2024 take a multi sectoral approach to include regional sector representatives and NMHSs in the discussions. This will enable them to use the information for decision making at the regional level and also serves as a platform to initially discuss setting up User Interface platforms that will help their specific communities to better use climate science and services.

A. Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF) - 14

- 1) Review the climate and oceanic conditions in the western Pacific region for the period 1 November 2023 to 15 April 2024;
- 2) Present and discuss long-term trends and projections for selected climate and ocean variables;
- 3) Present monthly and seasonal climate, ocean and tropical cyclone outlooks for the western Pacific region for 1 May to 30 October 2024;
- 4) Discuss and review confidence/skill associated with the May to October 2024 outlooks based on the discussions associated with 1-3 and where possible
- 5) Discuss how NMHSs are currently accessing and assessing the available guidance, making them nationally relevant, tailoring them for specific end users, and disseminating them to users and discuss how the outlooks for the coming season are likely to impact climate-sensitive sectors,



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sector climate information needs, how NMHS products can be improved and how NMHS can improve their media and social media products for the community.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF) – 14

- a) Improved understanding of climate and ocean monitoring and outlook information and better understanding of the outlook and outlook confidence/skill for the region for the period in question;
- b) Produce a regional statement containing climate, ocean and tropical cyclone outlooks for May to October 2024 which NMHSs can use as guide to develop their national statements;
- c) PICOF-14 Report
- d) Assist NMHSs where possible to improve climate and ocean bulletins as well as media and social media content better meeting primary stakeholder and community needs

Detailed Program

16 April – PICOF, NMHS Day

Time (Fiji Time)	Agenda Item	Responsible
10:30am-11:00am (7.30am Palau time, 1pm Honolulu time and 11pm UTC)	Registration including morning tea	SPREP
11:00am -11.30am	Opening and Setting the Scene Opening prayer Remarks Meeting objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Niue NMHS - Director: Rossy Mitiepo ▪ Welcome remarks -Fiji Government (Fiji Met Director) ▪ Opening remarks - SPREP Rep (Salesa Nimhei) ▪ Keynote address - WMO Rep (Henry Taiki) PICS Panel/RCC Management Committee Chair
11:30am-11:50am	Session 1: ENSO Status and Outlook Including highlights from Global Seasonal Climate Update (GSCU)	NIWA, BOM, Meteo-France , NOAA, University of Hawaii, APCC, SPREP, SPC



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Time (Fiji Time)	Agenda Item	Responsible
11.50am-12.50pm	<p>Session 2: Looking Back - Review and Evaluation of November to April Climate Outlook</p> <p>i. Atmosphere Overview of November to April state of the climate, plus evaluation of the last PICOF outlook</p> <p>ii. Ocean Overview of November to April state of the ocean, plus evaluation of the last PICOF outlook</p> <p>iii. Tropical cyclones Overview of the TCs over November to May</p> <p>iv. Impacts Overview of significant weather and ocean events over the last six months (November to April)</p>	<p>(15 minutes each)</p> <p>NOAA, University of Hawaii, BOM, SPC, SPREP, NIWA</p> <p>NOAA, University of Hawaii, BOM, SPC, SPREP, NIWA</p> <p>NOAA, University of Hawaii, BOM, SPC, SPREP, NIWA</p> <p>NOAA, University of Hawaii, BOM, SPC, FSM (Chuuk), Fiji, Tonga, NIWA</p>
12:50pm-1:10pm	<p>Session 3: Looking Back Long-Term: Status of key variables</p> <p>A brief examination of long-term trends for variables of interest to Pacific communities: In April 2024, these will be surface and subsurface ocean temperature, coral bleaching and marine heatwaves</p>	<p>NOAA, University of Hawaii, BOM, SPC, SPREP, NIWA</p>
1.10pm-2.00pm		
2.00pm-3:00pm	<p>Session 4: Looking Forward – Monthly and Seasonal Outlooks for May to October 2024</p> <p>i. Atmosphere PICOF outlook and RCC Node for LRF individual model/MME guidance and skill comparison</p> <p>ii. Ocean PICOF outlook and RCC Node for LRF individual model/MME guidance and skill comparison</p> <p>iii. Tropical cyclones PICOF outlook and RCC Node for LRF individual model/MME guidance and skill comparison</p>	<p>(20 minutes each)</p> <p>NIWA, BOM, Meteo-France, NOAA, University of Hawaii, APCC, SPREP, SPC</p> <p>NIWA, BOM, Meteo-France, NOAA, University of Hawaii, APCC, SPREP, SPC</p> <p>NIWA, BOM, Meteo-France, NOAA, University of Hawaii, APCC, SPREP, SPC</p>

Time (Fiji Time)	Agenda Item	Responsible
3.00pm-3.20pm	Session 5: Looking Forward Long-Term A brief review of climate change projections for variables of interest to Pacific communities: In April 2024, these will be surface and subsurface ocean temperature, coral bleaching and marine heatwaves	CSIRO, UGCRP, BoM and SPREP
3.20pm-3.30pm	Session 6: Summary of proceedings & next steps	PICS panel chair
3.30pm-4.00pm	Afternoon tea	