



Sixth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-6)

Sustaining Weather, Climate, Water and Ocean Services for a Resilient Blue Pacific

14-16 August 2023, Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa, Denarau, Nadi, Fiji

Agenda item 17: Implementation of the Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy through Projects

Purpose of the paper:

1. To provide information and updates on the UNEP led US\$49.9 million programme, “Enhancing Climate Information and Knowledge Services for 5 nations of the Pacific Ocean,” also known as UNEP CIS-Pac5 and linkages to the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy (PIMS).

Background:

1. UNEP CIS-Pac5 was developed at the request of the 5 countries (Cook Islands, Niue, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands and Tuvalu) and the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) at the 5th biennial meeting in July 2019.
2. Leadership and support from the PMC contributed to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board approving the programme at the 27th meeting of the Board in November 2020.
3. Official implementation commenced in September 2021 known as the Effectiveness Date of the Funded Activity Agreement (FAA) between the GCF and UNEP, with the Regional Inception Workshop and First Programme Steering Committee (PSC) held in May 2022.
4. The programme is implemented through four inter-related **Programme Results**, based on the pillars of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GCFS) and the PIMS:
 - **Result 1:** Strengthened delivery model for climate information services and MHEWS covering oceans and islands.
 - **Result 2:** Strengthened observations, monitoring, modelling and prediction of climate and its impacts on ocean areas and islands.
 - **Result 3:** Improved community preparedness, response capabilities and resilience to climate risks.
 - **Result 4:** Enhanced regional knowledge management and cooperation for climate services and MHEWS.
5. The Programme Results are aligned and address the five priority areas for action identified in the PIMS as follows:

PIMS Priority Areas	Alignment with UNEP CIS-Pac5 Results
Priority 1: Improved Weather Service	Results 1, 2 and 3
Priority 2: Disaster Risk Reduction	Results 1, 2 and 3
Priority 3: Improved Climate and Hydrological Services	Results 2 and 4

Priority 4: Integrated Observing and Communication Systems	Results 2 and 4
Priority 5: Coordinated Support for NMHSs and PMC	Results 1 and 4

- The programme benefits from the expertise of a broad coalition of regional technical partners ensuring coherence and complementarity: APEC Climate Center (APCC), the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (Climate Centre), the East West Centre (EWC), the New Zealand National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and the University of Hawaii (UH).

Update: From January 2022 – May 2023

- Full disbursement of Year 1 funds to 5 countries and 8 regional technical partners issued with a value of USD10.3 million.
- Recruitment of key consultants completed in the 5 countries to manage in-country activities to support the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), such as the National Programme Implementation Managers.
- Establishment of the UNEP Programme Management Unit (PMU) to support the countries and regional technical partners; based at the Pacific Climate Change Centre in Apia, Samoa.
- Recruitment near completion for all technical staff: Oceans Expert, Climate Data Expert, Climate Expert, Traditional Knowledge Officers, IT Technical Officers.
- Programme Steering Committee meetings held with Co-Chair rotation from the countries.
- National Climate Outlook Forums conducted for Cook Islands and Palau with remaining planned for all 5 countries on an annual basis.
- Development of the National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) ongoing with consultations completed for Niue, Palau and Tuvalu.
- Regional training on PICASO (APCC) and SPREP Planning workshop completed with the 5 countries.
- Feasibility studies conducted for the Forecast Based Financing (Anticipatory Action) across the 5 countries.
- Data Harmonisation progressing between the technical partners' platforms and products towards a shared virtual repository of Pacific Island climate information products.
- There has been successful installation of 2 Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) in Niue; 2 AWSs have been delivered to Cook Islands; 4 AWSs have been delivered to Tuvalu with 4 additional AWSs pending; 5 AWSs are pending shipment to Palau; and the assembly of 24 AWSs are underway for RMI. Procurement of wave buoys and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) near completion for Cook Islands, Tuvalu and Niue. Successful completion of AWS technicians training for Tuvalu and Niue, with Palau and an additional Niue technician currently in training.
- Community engagement and outreach on preparedness and early warning conducted in partnership with NGOs and led by the NMHSs: Cook Islands (Kumiti Au Vaine), Palau (Palau Red Cross), RMI (Marshall Islands Conservation Society, Marshall Islands Red Cross), Niue (Girls Brigade/National Council of Women), Tuvalu (Tuvalu Red Cross).

Recommendations

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Welcome and applaud** the approval of the funding for UNEP CIS-Pac5 from GCF and the progress from the countries, regional technical partners, and UNEP in implementing the activities.
- **Encourage** the five countries and the respective NMHSs to exercise ownership of programme activities in full coordination with national stakeholders, national service providers and regional technical partners.
- **Note** the Programme Mid-Term Review will be due in March 2024 and seek leadership from the five countries and regional technical partners to accelerate implementation.
- **Recommend** that the UNEP CIS-Pac5 programme and all other complementary programmes in the Pacific on Climate Services coordinate activities, trainings and data in the region, in partnership with the countries and NMHSs.