EIGHTH MEETING OF THE

PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

PMC-8 Nuku'alofa, Tonga • 10, 11, 14 September 2026

The Eighth PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL MEETING (PMC-8),

The Fourth PACIFIC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON METEOROLOGY (PMMM-4)

And Associated Meetings

INFORMATION NOTE

Nukuálofa, Tonga

7 – 18 September 2026

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Overview

The Government of the Kingdom of Tonga, in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) will be hosting the Eighth Pacific Meteorological Council Meeting (PMC-8) from the 10-11 & 14 September 2026 and the Fourth Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM-4) from the 15-16 September 2026. These meetings will be complemented by a series of associated meetings taking place before and after the main meetings.

Theme

The meetings will be held under the theme ***"Weather Ready for a Secured and Sustainable Blue Pacific".***

The theme reflects the collective ambition of Pacific Island Countries and Territories to strengthen and modernise meteorological services, so they are better able to protect lives, livelihoods, ecosystems, and economies. The theme

Meeting Logistics

Meeting Schedule, Events and Locations

The scheduled series of meetings and their locations are provided in the table below:

Dates (2026)	Meeting	Attendance	Location	Google Map Link
7 Sept	Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) Panels • Pacific Island Climate Services (PICS) Panel • Pacific Island Marine and Oceans Services (PIMOS) Panel • Pacific Island Aviation Weather Services (PIAWS) Panel • Pacific Island Communications and Infrastructure (PICI) Panel	*By membership only* • Directors, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services • Nominated Staff, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services • Technical and Development Partners	Tanoa International Dateline Hotel	https://maps.app.goo.gl/xV5x8p2N9x2SaNpN9

	• Pacific Island Education, Training and Research (PIETR) Panel • Pacific Hydrological Services (PHS) Panel			
8-9 Sep	Weather Ready Pacific Liaison Platform	*By invitation only* • Directors, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services • Technical and Development Partners	Fa'onelua Convention Center	https://maps.app.goo.gl/NmXPvo8dUvzTmtUS6
8-9 Sept	Pacific Media Training	*By invitation only (Closed Meeting)* Nominated Pacific media	Tanoa International Dateline Hotel	https://maps.app.goo.gl/xV5x8p2N9x2SaNpN9
10-11 & 14 Sept	**Eighth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-8)**	***Pre-registered participants only*** • **Directors, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services** • **Government Officials- National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Hydrology sectors, etc.** • **Private Sector** • **Technical and Development Partners** • **Meteorology Community**	**Fa'onelua Convention Center**	**https://maps.app.goo.gl/NmXPvo8dUvzTmtUS6**
15 Sept	**Ministerial Briefing on PMMM-4**	***By invitation only (Closed meeting)*** • **Ministers responsible for Meteorology** • **Directors, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services**	**Matatoa Met Office**	**https://maps.app.goo.gl/BLFmnCBMM1CTPdU69**
16 Sept	**Fourth Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM-4)**	***Pre-registered participants only*** • **Ministers responsible for Meteorology**	**Anasitasisi Hall**	**https://maps.app.goo.gl/WoehrjfgmkbwgUxs6**

		• **Directors, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services** • **Government Officials- National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Hydrology sectors, etc.** • **Private Sector** • **Technical and Development Partners** • **Meteorology Community**		
17-18 Sept	Leadership Training	*By invitation only (Closed Meeting)* • Directors, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services Senior Management, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services	Matatoa Met Office	https://maps.app.goo.gl/BLFmnCBMM1CTPdU69

Participants will receive identification badges at the time of registration; please wear these badges throughout the duration of the meeting(s) for security and catering purposes.

Events/Receptions

A series of events is planned, below is the tentative schedule of events and will be updated on the PacMetDesk website as further details are finalised.

Dates (2026)	Event	Location	Google Map Link
10 Sept	Official opening reception of the Eighth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-8)	Fa'onelua Convention Center	https://maps.app.goo.gl/NmXPvo8dUvzTmtUS6
12 Sept	Commissioning of Tonga's Joint Multi-Hazard Early Warning Centre	Matatoa Met Office	https://maps.app.goo.gl/BLFmnCBMM1CTPdU69
14 Sept	Official closing reception of the Eighth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-8)	New Zealand High Commissioners Residence	https://maps.app.goo.gl/gqVN7mVipxZC6o4R9
15 Sept	Official opening of the Fourth Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM-4) *the official opening will take place following the minister's briefing (closed meeting)*	Anahulu Events	https://maps.app.goo.gl/e4bFECsSin1qCHfd9
16 Sept	Official closing reception of the Fourth Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM-4)	Likualofa	https://maps.app.goo.gl/9ScPn6iQkFRFoxWW9

Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda can be accessed and will be made available at the following link when ready: https://www.pacificmet.net/pmc-8
Any queries relating to the agenda, please email: PacMetDesk@sprep.org

Coordination

For any queries on the working arrangements, workshop, and logistics, please email Ms. Florette Tuuau-Tiperia – florettet@sprep.org (Whatsapp: +685 7557252) Ms. Sela Soakai-Simamao – selas@sprep.org (Whatsapp: +685 7638192) and PacMetDesk@sprep.org. Alternatively, the team can also be contacted through Whatsapp (as per above).

Travel Arrangements (Funded Participants)

Funded participants by SPREP will include the cost of travel (i.e., airfare) and per diem.

Travel

A return, economy ticket will be issued to SPREP-funded participants, on the most economical route in accordance with the SPREP Travel Policy.

Once a ticket is issued, any cost implications from changes, no show, or cancellation of travel, due to personal preference or negligence, will be the responsibility of the funded participant.

Travel/health insurance is the responsibility of the funded participant and their organisation, and SPREP strongly recommends all delegates have travel insurance to ensure appropriate coverage in the case of an unforeseen event.

Per Diem

Payment of per Diem or daily subsistence allowance (DSA) will be made via a transfer to the nominated account of the funded participant. Per diems cover accommodation, transport and incidental expenses. Where a DSA has been transferred to your bank account, you are required to reimburse SPREP in full in the event of any subsequent changes, cancellations, or failure to attend the meeting.

The DSA rate per day in Tonga is USD 413 (TOP 960).

For travel related queries of funded participants, please contact Ms. Florette Tuuau-Tiperia (florettet@sprep.org) and Ms. Sela Soakai-Simamao (selas@sprep.org)

Administration

Entry Requirements for Tonga

Delegates are required to confirm your individual entry VISA requirements. Regardless of whether you need a VISA or not, please keep in mind you **MUST**:

- Hold a passport valid for at least six (6) months beyond intended departure date from Tonga
- Hold proof of onward travel/return ticket to a country which you are permitted to enter
- Valid visa (if required) for any countries you may be in transit through

Travellers who are citizens of the following countries may be issued a visa upon arrival into Tonga:

- Australia, Austria
- Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam
- Canada, Cook Islands, Cyprus
- Denmark, Dominica
- Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Finland, France, French Polynesia
- Germany, Greece
- Ireland, Italy
- Japan, Kiribati
- Luxembourg
- Malaysia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco
- Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niue, Norway
- Palau, Papua New Guinea, Portugal
- Russia
- Samoa, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, St Kitts & Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent & the Grenadines, Sweden, Switzerland
- The Bahamas, Turkey, Tuvalu
- Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America
- Vanuatu

If your country of citizenship is not listed above, please note that you will need to apply for a visa (prior to arrival). This entry permit will be issued by the Immigration Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs prior to arriving in Tonga. For further details and to apply for a visa upon arrival, you can access the application form and check-list **here** and email all required documents to: tongapermit@gmail.com

Additional information can also be found on Immigration and General Services | Revenue

Accommodation

Booking of accommodation during your stay in Tonga, is your responsibility.

A detailed table of accommodation providers and their contact details is attached. When booking, you may be asked for your credit card details for guarantee (Type, Number, Name and Expiry Date). Alternatively, you may book through Booking.com or Airbnb if you would like to share accommodation with other delegates.

The month of September is part of Tonga's peak tourism season for whale watching, **we highly recommend you make accommodation bookings at your earliest convenience.**

Transportation

As public transportation in Tongatapu is very limited, we strongly recommend making your own transportation arrangements. Taxi services are also available as an alternative.

The main meeting venue is centrally located and is not a far walk if your accommodation is in the central business district of Nuku'alofa.

Renting a car is the easiest way to explore Tongatapu, driving is on the left and speed limits are low. Should you wish to rent a vehicle, we have attached a list of rental car companies and their contact details for your booking purposes.

Communication

There are 2 main service providers in Tonga – Digicel Tonga and the Tonga Communications Corporations (UCall).

Both providers have booths at the arrival area of the Fuaámotu International Airport for delegates requiring mobile and data service connectivity.

Banking and Foreign Exchange

The currency in Tonga is the Tongan Paánga (TOP) and foreign exchange is widely available at banks, authorized hotels, and money transfer operators such as Western Union, Money gram.

The main commercial banks in Tonga are Bank of South Pacific (BSP) and ANZ. ATMs and banks can be found mainly in the central area of Nukuálofa.

Credit cards is an accepted form of payment in major tourist spots, but cash is essential, please always carry Tongan paánga for your needs. Please also do notify your banks for use of credit/debits cards overseas.

ATMs and money transfer operators are available in the arrival area of the Fuaámotu international airport. It is recommended to exchange some cash to Tongan Paánga before leaving the airport for initial expenses.

Electricity and Plug Type

The electrical current in Tonga is 220-240 Volts and the type of plug normally used is shown below (type Australian AS-3112).

Please bring an adaptor if your power plugs are different for your own use during the meeting. Particularly if you are coming from the North Pacific and are using US power plugs.

Health & Safety

It is recommended that you apply the same practical and common-sense approach to your health and safety as you would at home.

- Do not leave valuables unattended
- Arrange appropriate travel and health insurance
- Carry a basic first aid kit

Kindly note that it is very important for you to purchase travel and health insurance as SPREP will not be liable for any accidents or health-related issues whilst attending these meetings.

In the unlikely event of an emergency in Tonga, please be aware of the following contact details:

- Fire/General Emergency: 999
- Police: 922
- Medical/Ambulance: 933

Dress Code

The official dress code for meetings in Tonga is formal. As Tonga has a very conservative and deeply traditional culture, we recommend and encourage all participants to dress appropriately.

What to expect in Tonga

Climate

Tonga has a warm tropical climate, with a cool dry season from May to October and a hot, wet season from November to April. Delegates arriving in September can expect daytime temperatures around 25–27 °C and cooler evenings of 15–20 °C, with a brisk southeasterly breeze. Light clothing is suitable for the day, but a jacket or light sweater is recommended for early mornings and evenings.

Religion

Religion is central to Tongan life and culture. Religion shapes daily life, specifically the **observance of Sunday as a day of rest** and worship. All businesses, shops, and services are closed on Sundays, except for a handful of restaurants that are open – please prepare accordingly if your itinerary has you spending Sunday in Tonga.

Tourism

Tonga is one of the few places in the world where you can still swim with whales, especially as they migrate through Tongan waters during July – October. If you're hoping to capitalise on this opportunity while in Tonga, please ensure to use only Licensed Whale Operators, as they have sustainable practices and are fully trained tour guides and have the correct equipment.

More info can be read on https://www.tongatourism.travel/