

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

PMC-8

Nuku'alofa, Tonga • 10, 11, 14 September 2026

Eighth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-8)

Weather Ready for a Secured and Sustainable Pacific

10, 11, 14 September 2026 | Nuku'alofa, Tonga

Agenda Item 18.1: Progress Updates and Workplan of the Pacific Islands Education, Training and Research (PIETR) Panel

Purpose:

- 1) To provide the PMC with an update on the PIETR Panel's progress and strategic priorities, present its proposed workplan, and seek guidance on areas requiring regional coordination, support and action.

Objectives:

- a) Progress Update
To report on key achievements, activities undertaken and outcomes delivered by the PIETR Panel.
- b) Strategic Priorities
To highlight emerging priorities and areas of focus for education, training and research across Pacific NMHSs.
- c) Workplan
To present the PIETR Panel's proposed workplan and key activities for the upcoming period.
- d) Guidance and Support
To seek PMC guidance and support on priority actions requiring regional coordination, collaboration or investment.

Background:

Education, training and research are fundamental to the development and sustainability of capable Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs). The delivery of effective weather, climate and hydrological services requires a skilled workforce with appropriate technical competencies, access to relevant education and training opportunities, and strong

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

PMC-8

Nuku'alofa, Tonga • 10, 11, 14 September 2026

linkages with research and knowledge institutions. Strengthening these areas is therefore an important component of building resilient and sustainable meteorological and hydrological services across the Pacific.

The **Pacific Islands Education, Training and Research (PIETR) Panel** provides a regional mechanism for coordinating and advancing priorities related to education, training and research for Pacific NMHSs. The Panel supports the identification of regional capacity-development needs, promotes collaboration among NMHSs, training institutions and research partners, and facilitates opportunities for strengthening technical capabilities and professional development across the region.

The work of the PIETR Panel contributes to the implementation of regional priorities identified through the **Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy (PIMS)** and relevant WMO strategic and technical frameworks. It also complements broader regional efforts to strengthen workforce capacity, improve access to education and training, promote applied research, and support the long-term sustainability of Pacific meteorological and hydrological services.

Since its establishment/last report to the PMC, the PIETR Panel has progressed a number of activities in support of these priorities. These include a steadily expanding programme of meteorological capacity development across the Pacific, spanning foundational technical and tropical cyclone training, a flagship meteorological technician pathway, climate services and leadership development, and inclusive community and GEDSI-focused engagement across multiple Pacific countries, now converging toward the WMO Regional Training Centre in Nadi as the region's emerging training hub. The Panel has also identified emerging priorities and areas requiring greater regional coordination, collaboration and support.

This paper provides the PMC with an update on the progress of the PIETR Panel, presents its proposed priorities and workplan, and identifies areas where regional coordination, support and guidance from the Council would assist the Panel in delivering its mandate.

1) Progress Update

Pacific NMHSs draw capacity-development support from several regional programmes, principally the Weather Ready Pacific (WRP) Programme, the Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac), and RTC-Nadi, alongside national NMHSs and partners including JICA, SPC and WMO. This update draws mainly on data from WRP, COSPPac and RTC-Nadi, primarily via the WRP training register (18 February 2025 to 1 May 2026). It is a partial, illustrative sample rather than a complete record, pending a single Panel-wide register.

Within this partial dataset, the WRP Programme supported delivery of 16 capacity-strengthening activities, reaching over 250 participants, the majority female, across Fiji, Samoa, Niue, and Tokelau with one recent slice of a longer regional effort that includes COSPPac's 4,500-plus training participants over the past 10 years. Three results stand out for Council attention:

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

PMC-8

Nuku'alofa, Tonga • 10, 11, 14 September 2026

- **Reach beyond regional hubs.** Delivery extended into smaller PICTs such as Niue and Tokelau, bringing training and community awareness activities to national and outer-island level, not just regional centres.
- **GEDSI is being operationalised, not just referenced.** Multiple activities were explicitly designed around gender equality, disability and social inclusion, with disability-disaggregated data now being collected, building on COSPPac's GEDSI Focal Point Network and Roadmaps already in place in 11 countries.
- **Pacific-led delivery.** Where tracked, all training was coordinated from within the Pacific and delivered by regional Pacific agencies, supporting the Panel's sustainability agenda, echoing COSPPac's own funding of national climate officer and science communications roles to build lasting workforce capability.

Despite these encouraging signs, the Panel notes a data completeness gap: participation and outcome data were not consistently captured across all WRP activities, and COSPPac's own record sits in a separate system. Together, the two programmes point to a depth and breadth of activity a consolidated record would need to capture, including 13 NMHSs supported in tide gauge and GNSS CORS maintenance and 7 with Traditional Knowledge databases under COSPPac. The Panel is strengthening its training register, and will work with COSPPac and other partners, to ensure future reporting to PMC is complete and robust.

2) Strategic Priorities

- ✚ **Workforce and skills gaps.** Close the workforce and skills gaps identified through the capacity assessment work under the Strategic Roadmap the concrete training and staffing shortfalls NMHSs face today.
- ✚ **Sustainable, recurring financing for training.** Move away from one-off, donor-dependent training towards predictable, recurring funding models that member countries can plan around.
- ✚ **Regional Training Centre role and governance.** Clarify the role and governance of RTC-Nadi within the regional training architecture as the Roadmap's implementation framework takes shape.
- ✚ **GEDSI integration.** Ensure gender equality and social inclusion are built into training design and career pathways from the outset, not layered on afterward.
- ✚ **Data quality for capacity assessment.** Strong member-country response to the upcoming capacity assessment survey directly determines the quality of both the Roadmap and future PIETR priority-setting.
- ✚ **Research on the regional meteorological community.** Invest in research capacity within NMHSs and in research about the community itself, its workforce, institutions and evolving need to build an evidence base that keeps the Strategic Roadmap and future priority-setting grounded in reality.

3) Proposed Workplan

The PIETR Panel's detailed workplan will be developed once the Strategic Roadmap for Capacity Development and Training for Pacific National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) has been finalised. The Roadmap, currently in its inception phase (WRP-

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

PMC-8

Nuku'alofa, Tonga • 10, 11, 14 September 2026

2026-012 Strategic Roadmap Inception Report), will identify the specific capacity and training gaps across Pacific NMHSs and set the evidence base from which the Panel's activities, timeframes and resourcing needs can be defined.

Sequencing the workplan after the Roadmap ensures that Panel activities are grounded in a validated, region-wide assessment of need rather than developed ahead of that evidence. The Panel proposes to bring a detailed workplan, including specific activities, timelines and responsible parties, to the Panel's next meeting following completion of the Roadmap, for onward reporting to PMC-9.

In the interim, the Panel's immediate focus is on supporting the Roadmap process itself, including encouraging strong member-country participation in the forthcoming capacity assessment survey, as the quality of that response will directly shape both the Roadmap and the workplan that follows.

4) Issues or Areas Requiring PMC Support

The Panel seeks Council guidance and support on five priority areas:

- Sustainable, recurring financing for training, moving beyond one-off, donor-dependent models.
- RTC-Nadi's role and governance within the regional training architecture.
- Strong member-country participation in the upcoming capacity assessment survey
- A consolidated, Panel-wide activity record spanning all training and research partners.
- Consistent GEDSI integration across NMHS training design and career pathways.

Recommendations:

The Meeting is invited to:

- I. **Note** the progress update on PIETR Panel activities, recognising that the data presented reflects a partial record (WRP, COSPPac Programme including RTC-Nadi training register only) and does not yet capture the full scope of education, training and research activity across all Panel partners and institutions.
- II. **Endorse** the Panel's strategic priorities as presented under item 3 of this paper, and its proposed approach to developing a detailed workplan following completion of the Strategic Roadmap for Capacity Development and Training, as presented under item 4.
- III. **Support** the development of a consolidated, Panel-wide monitoring record spanning RTC-Nadi, national NMHSs, and regional partners (JICA, SPC, WMO, COSPPac) to strengthen the evidence base for future PMC reporting.