

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 19.1: PICI Panel Progress and Updates

Purpose:

1. Inform the meeting of updates on the work of the Panel
2. Note the progress to date of the Panel's work and other items since the Seventh Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-7) in September, 2024.
3. To seek the Meeting's guidance, invite comments and request endorsement of the recommendations of the PICI Panel

Objectives:

1. Provide and update on the activities, achievements and key developments of the PICI Panel
2. Review progress made against the PICI panel work programme including relevant initiatives, partnerships actions undertaken since PMC-7
3. Present the panel's recommendations and proposals for endorsement

Background:

1. The Pacific Island Communications and Infrastructure (PICI) panel was established to serve in the capacity as an advisory committee to the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) on matters concerning the infrastructure, observations and instrumentation supporting communication and dissemination of national and regional hydrometeorological and oceanographic/tsunami (seismic and sea level) observations, forecasts, and warnings in the Pacific region including advice on resilient and redundant communication infrastructure.
2. The purpose of the PICI panel is to provide technical advice and coordinate implementation of activities recommended by the PMC related to:
 - a. Infrastructure supporting communications and dissemination of national and regional hydrometeorological and oceanographic observations, forecasts and warnings
 - b. Identify priorities and coordinate work related to planning and implementation of communications facilities and equipment.

Progress and Updates:

3. Since the last PMC meeting, the PICI panel has had three face to face/hybrid meetings, and six online meetings. It has maintained the leadership of Leonard Bale (Fiji) as the Chair and Rossylynn Mitiepo (Niue) as the Vice Chair. The secretariat support is provided by the Climate Science and Information Programme team in SPREP.

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4. PMC country members, donors and partners have continued to implement and advance the work of the PICI panel through national and regional activities supported by WRP, UNEP CIS-Pac5, COSPPac, NOAA, CLIMSA, Australia-Pacific Partnerships for Aviation Program (P4A) and CREWS. Supported works include upgrades, training and installation of new observation equipment and stations, ICT assessments, replacements and upgrades to ICT infrastructure, and communications systems.
5. The panel has established three task teams to provide guidance, support and oversight for major projects under the Weather Ready Pacific programme. These task teams are for the:
 - a. Pacific Integrated Forecast Platform
 - b. Pacific Radar Strategy
 - c. Asset Management System
6. Through panel meetings and coordination, the following documents have been evaluated;
 - a. Pacific regional radar strategy - endorsed for PMC approval (Annex 1)
 - b. Pacific regional observation network strategy - endorsed for PMC approval (refer to Agenda Item 19.2 - Annex)
 - c. Guidance document for standardisation, optimisation and maintenance of earth observation equipment in the Pacific - supported (Annex 2)
 - d. Pacific cell broadcast strategy (refer to Agenda Item 19.3 - Annex)
 - e. Pacific meteorological asset policy (refer to Agenda Item 19.4 - Annex 1)
 - f. Pacific meteorological data framework (refer to Agenda Item 19.4 - Annex 2)

Recommendations in this paper seek decisions on item 6-b and 6-c. The other documents will be addressed in the agenda item papers 19.2 to 19.4 at this session

7. Phase 1 of the Pacific Integrated Forecast Platform (IFP) is in progress. This includes the uplift of the Fiji forecasting services and development of a Pacific solution architecture design. This ICT architecture was presented to the PICI panel for consideration. This also set the basis for the Phase 2 of the Pacific IFP project which the panel supported for implementation after the completion of Phase 1. Works for Phase 2 is anticipated to commence in the first quarter of 2027.
8. WIS2.0 activities in the Pacific are also in progress through the WMO and WRP initiatives. Vanuatu, Tonga, PNG and Kiribati are progressing with setting up National WIS2.0 nodes. Tuvalu, Cook Islands, Nauru and Federated States of Micronesia have opted to use a regional WIS2.0 node currently being developed with Fiji under the IFP project
9. The Regional Training Centre and building Regional Instrument Centre (RIC) building is currently under construction at the Fiji Meteorological Service, Nadi premises. This structure is anticipated to be completed by May 2027. The Fiji Meteorological Service is in progress with works toward certification of the RIC-Nadi for one observation parameter. Training was conducted for staff in ISO17025 in June 2026 to support this.
10. SPREP has finalised a preferred supplier panel for the supply, installation and training for weather watch radars for the Pacific. The finalisation of the agreements are in progress and will be reviewed every 2 years.

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Updates on Recommendations from PMC-6 and PMC-7

Recommendations	Status
PMC-6 called for a gap analysis of Pacific NMHSs' observations, communications, and ICT infrastructure	COSPPac developed a standard ICT capacity assessment guideline, endorsed by the PICI Panel to be used to assess NMHS capacity. Assessment covered eight domains including observation, data management and dissemination and it has completed assessments and setting the baseline for 5 countries between May 2025-August 2026 through COSPPac, CLIMSA and WRP. In response to gaps identified through the Regional ICT Capacity Assessments and the increasing demands of rapidly evolving technologies, COSPPac funded a regional ICT workshop from 24 to 28 August 2026. The workshop underscored the critical need for continued investment in ICT skills development, given the apparent lack of recent regional ICT training initiatives of this nature.
Request for the PMC-Panel Chairs to meet and discuss regularly issues arising from the Panel Meetings including coordination of other crosscutting issues and activities.	Meeting convening under WRP Technical Fortnightly meetings Follow-up request for a Pre-PMC face to face meeting of Chairs is in progress and connected to the proposed setup of the PMC Management Group
Request the Review of the PICI panel workplan and aligning activities to the Weather Ready Pacific Programme and national strategic frameworks.	Work plan alignment with WRP completed, alignment with other projects workplan is ongoing
Request for the inclusion of the PMC Inter-Panel coordination forum in the WRP Liaison Platform.	Done under the WRP Technical Fortnightly Meetings
Recommend the development of a Pacific Infrastructure and Communication Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan to guide the work of the PICI Panel.	Data framework, Asset Policy, Radar Strategy, Observation Network Strategy, Cell Broadcast Strategy are key documents that will contribute to framing the work of the PICI panel

Proposed Work plan 2026 to 2028

Key Area	Activities	Deliverables
1. Observing Equipment	- Align regional observing network, radar, hydrology, and asset strategies into a coordinated implementation approach - Strengthen OSCAR registration, data completeness, and routine maintenance across Pacific NMHSs - Establish a practical asset management plan to guide equipment planning, procurement, maintenance, and replacement priorities	Coordinated observing infrastructure implementation approach, improved OSCAR data quality, and agreed asset management guidance for Pacific NMHSs.

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2. Communication Systems	- Support Pacific NMHSs to assess readiness, close priority gaps, and progress toward WIS 2.0 compliance	WIS 2.0 compliance roadmap, and documented implementation support for priority countries.
3. Processing and Analysis Systems	- Coordinate rollout of an integrated forecast platform that supports consistent regional access to analysis and forecasting tools - Identify ICT capability gaps and agree practical solutions that improve operational reliability and service continuity	Integrated forecast platform rollout plan, ICT gap analysis findings, and prioritised solution package to strengthen operational capability.
4. Warning Dissemination Systems	- Advance the cell broadcast strategy through partner coordination, technical guidance, and a phased implementation plan	Partner-endorsed cell broadcast strategy, phased implementation plan, and coordination schedule for warning dissemination improvements.

Recommendations:

The Meeting is invited to:

- i. **Acknowledge** the contributions from COSPPac3, CLIMSA, CREWS, UNEP CIS-Pac5, WRPP, technical partners and all other projects and programs supporting PICI panel activities
- ii. **Note** the progress of WIS2.0 implementations and encourage continued support of WMO, donors and regional partners to complete the implementation of WIS2.0 for all NMHSs
- iii. **Note** the progress made for the development of the Regional Instrument Centre (RIC) – Nadi and encourage donors and partners to support the work for certification across additional parameters for the RIC-Nadi
- iv. **Note** the setup of the preferred supplier panel for Pacific weather watch radars in SPREP and encourage donors and partners to use it for future radar projects.
- v. **Note** Phase 2 of the Pacific Integrated Forecast Platform, including adoption of the Fiji Meteorological Services IBL software system and Solution Architecture Design
- vi. **Encourage** partner and donor support to complete Regional ICT Capacity Assessment across all remaining NMHSs, using the PICI-endorsed assessment guideline.
- vii. **Encourage** additional investment in ICT capacity development and training for NMHS ICT personnel.
- viii. **Endorse** the Pacific Regional Radar Strategy as the regional framework for strengthening and sustaining the Pacific weather watch radar network
- ix. **Endorse** the Guidance document for standardisation, optimisation and maintenance of earth observation equipment in the Pacific Islands