

# 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 Secure and Sustainable Pacific

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

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#### Agenda Item 14: Strengthening Pacific Voices in Global Climate Sciences: Engagement with IPCC

##### Purpose:

The paper provides an update on coordination led by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)'s Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) to strengthen the engagement of Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) and their respective climate-related sectors in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

##### Objectives:

Specifically, the paper seeks to:

1. **Provide an overview of the coordination mechanism** designed and currently being implemented by the PCCC to support engagement across the 14 PSIDS currently registered under the IPCC.
2. **Present the high-level workstreams and activities calendar under the IPCC coordination mechanism**
3. **Introduce the Pacific Climate Change Journal (PCCJ)** as the flagship opportunity to publish and strengthen Pacific climate science within global climate science processes, which will be launched at the Fifth Pacific Ocean Pacific Climate Change Conference (5POPCCC) in Honiara, Solomon Islands, from 14–18 September 2026.

##### Background:

With the IPCC being recognised globally as the best available science to inform decision-making, there is an urgent need to empower and engage Pacific researchers with its processes. With the current cycle of the Seventh Assessment Report (AR7) underway and due at the end of 2029, PSIDS contribute an important and growing body of evidence to the IPCC, particularly on climate impacts, vulnerability, adaptation, oceans and coastal systems.

Contributions from our Pacific scientific community to the IPCC remain limited. Of the 664 experts from 111 countries appointed as Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors for the AR7 Working Group reports, only seven are from Pacific Island countries<sup>1</sup>. This is concerning, as major international decision-making processes on climate change, in particular the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Subsidiary Bodies' convenings, are strongly informed by the IPCC.

To address these challenges, SPREP's PCCC has coordinated engagement activities for 14 PSIDS countries through their respective IPCC National Focal Points (NFPs) and research associates. The coordination program under SPREP's PCCC was formalised following endorsement by the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) in 2023

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to support regional engagement for AR7 and is delivered through an existing partnerships with the Government of Australia and New Zealand. Notably the number of PSIDS official authors and experts has increased from two during the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) to now seven during current AR7 cycle<sup>2</sup>. While there is still much progress to make, the relative increase shows a positive return for regional coordination effort.

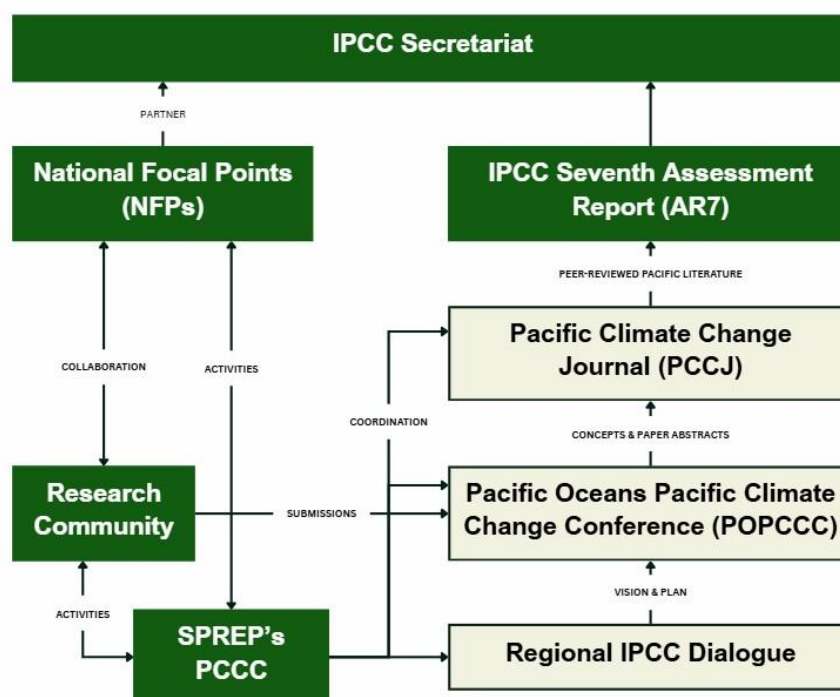
Greater integration of PSIDS science provides an opportunity for these international evidence bases to better reflect Pacific worldviews, priorities and contextual realities when informing decisions.

### IPCC Coordination Mechanism

In response to these challenges, PCCC has taken on a regional coordination and capacity-building role to strengthen Pacific engagement with IPCC processes. This role was formally endorsed by the Pacific Meteorological Council in 2023, providing a mandate to support both participation in IPCC processes and the uptake of IPCC knowledge across the region<sup>3</sup>.

Its work brings together IPCC NFPs, researchers, technical experts, governments, regional organisations and development partners around a more coordinated approach to participation in IPCC processes.

The mechanism described in **Figure 1** takes a holistic, multinational, and multidisciplinary approach, using proven engagement methods such as regional dialogues, write shops, training, and course development, while also linking these activities to key regional and international convenings, which include POPCCC, IPCC Plenaries, and UNFCCC COPs.



**Figure 1:** Coordination Mechanism for IPCC in the Pacific Region

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The approach is designed to draw together existing countries, SPREP, donor and partner support into a more coordinated regional system rather than delivering activities in isolation. It prioritises our science, our literature and our perspectives. Essentially, the mechanism is guided by a simple principle: “by the Pacific, for the Pacific.”

### Coordination Workstreams and Preliminary Calendar of Events

The coordination mechanism is inspired by the strategic approach outlined in the Pacific Climate Change Research Roadmap 2025–2030, which seeks to align climate change research projects and programmes with regional priorities while also responding to new and emerging climate research needs<sup>4</sup>. This, in addition to feedback from regional consultations and various regional forums, has led to the formulation of four coordination workstreams to which proposed and future activities will meet and align with:

- W1. National Focal Point and Government Engagement
- W2. Pacific Researcher and Expert (R&E) Engagement
- W3. Pacific Climate Literature Support
- W4. IPCC Engagement and Partnerships

The PCCC will serve as the regional hub for coordinating, enabling, and strengthening climate change research across the Pacific. The following presents an indicative list of foreseeable activities and timing that the centre seeks acknowledgment and endorsement of from the council:

| Workstream                                          | Coordination Activity and Indicative Timeline                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| W1. National Focal Point and Government Engagement  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update Formal PSIDS National Focal Point Registry with IPCC - ongoing</li> <li>• Melanesia and Polynesia Sub-regional Dialogue – Quarter 1 2027</li> <li>• National Level Consultation – on request</li> <li>• Focal point alignment meetings – subject to IPCC AR7 timeline</li> </ul> |
| W2. Pacific Researcher and Expert (R&E) Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Pacific Climate Science Researcher Writeshop – Quarter 1 2027</li> <li>• Climate Science Researcher Skills Course - Hosted on PCCC Learning Management System – Quarter 2 2027</li> <li>• Researcher Spotlight Social Media Series – Monthly – Quarter 4 2027</li> </ul>       |
| W3. Pacific Climate Science Promotion               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IPCC Introductory Course – Hosted on PCCC Learning Management System – Quarter 1 2027</li> <li>• Pacific Climate Change Journal 1<sup>st</sup> Edition – Quarter 2 2027</li> <li>• Climate Science Webinar Series – bi-monthly and subject to IPCC AR7 timeline</li> </ul>              |

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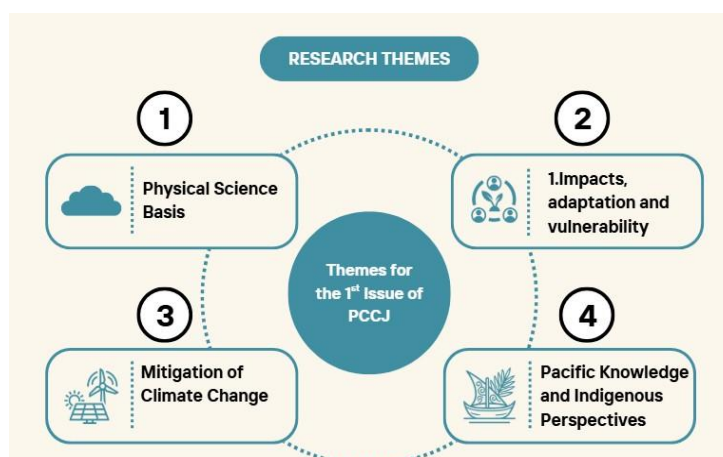
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|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| W4. IPCC Engagement and Partnerships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate PSIDS Delegation leading upto and during IPCC plenaries, bureau and approval meetings – Ad Hoc</li> <li>• IPCC update briefs for delegations UNFCCC and regional convenings – Ad Hoc</li> </ul> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### Pacific Climate Change Journal

The section presents the Pacific Climate Change Journal (PCCJ), which provides a focused regional platform for Pacific climate science to be published and improve its visibility within the IPCC AR7 and other international assessment processes.

The 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the PCCJ will cover the themes listed in **Figure 2**. The first three themes are a direct reflection of the IPCC AR7 working groups, and the final theme caters for studies that academically advance and report on Pacific Knowledge and indigenous systems currently applied to and relevant to climate science:



**Figure 2: PCCJ 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Research Themes**

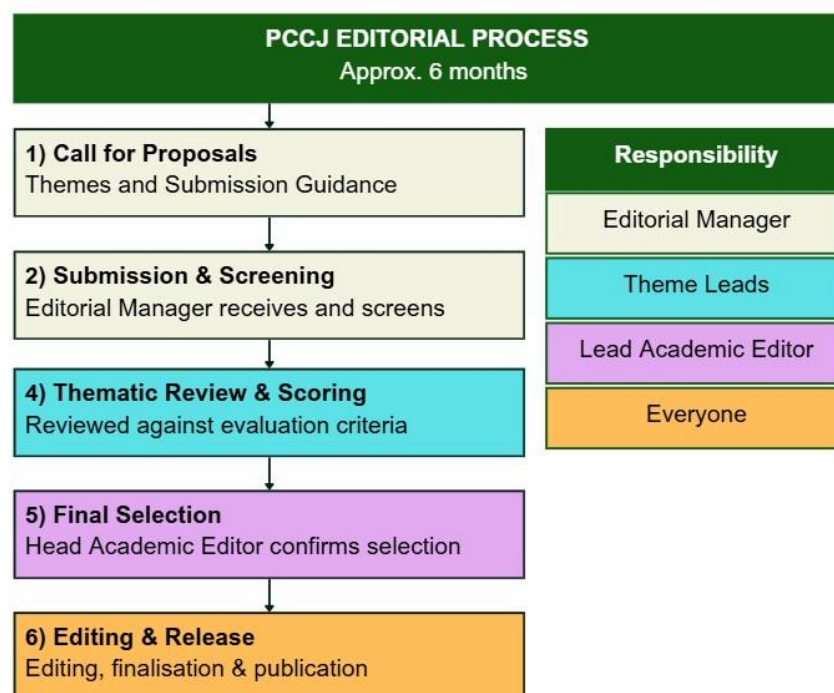
The PCCJ also recognises that in the Pacific, climate knowledge is developed outside conventional academic settings, including governments, communities, non-profit organisations, industry, and technical programmes. It will maintain credible peer-review standards while providing a fit-for-purpose pathway for authors, specifically targeting less-experienced, emerging researchers who may not have the publishing portfolio needed to attain formal authorship or reviewer roles within international climate science processes.

It will achieve this through an Editorial Board comprising academics and industry professionals who actively contribute to climate science within the Pacific, are involved in IPCC and other relevant international processes, and have the knowledge and experience to guide emerging authors into these spaces. Where possible, the Board will also include individuals who have been involved in the journal's development from its early stages and are therefore familiar with the PCCJ's underlying objectives, principles, and overall vision. **Figure 3** indicates the initial committee workflow is shown below:

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**Figure 3 – PCCJ Editorial Committee Workflow**

The Editorial Manager will receive, screen and distribute submissions to the relevant thematic leads for review and scoring. Articles will be assessed against an evaluation system to be developed, ensuring alignment with Pacific priorities, climate science requirements and the overall objectives of the PCCJ. The Head Academic Editor will make the final selection. The Editorial Manager and respective thematic leads will prepare introductory sections for each theme. The overall process is intended to run over approximately six months, from call for proposals through review, selection, editing and release.

### Donor Partners

The first edition of the PCCJ will be implemented through a partnership between SPREP's PCCC and the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and the Government of New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).

We further acknowledge support from WISER Asia Pacific through the United Kingdom Meteorological Office (UKMO), in addition to DFAT & MFAT, and look forward to continued support from existing and new partners for the implementation of the research roadmap as endorsed by the SPREP meeting 2025.

### Recommendations:

The Meeting is invited to:

- I. **Note** the proposed mechanism, workstreams and preliminary calendar of activities of the Pacific Climate Change Center to strengthen Pacific engagement and representation in IPCC processes.
- II. **Note** the proposed Pacific Climate Change Journal (PCCJ) platform under development as one of the mechanisms for publishing peer reviewed Pacific focussed, Pacific Led Research

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- III. **Encourage** member countries and organisations to participate in activities and sub-projects of the coordination led by the Pacific Climate Change Center.
  - IV. **Encourage** countries to update NFP information with the IPCC secretariat.
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### References:

<sup>1</sup>Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2025, August 18). *IPCC concludes selection of authors for its Seventh Assessment Report*. <https://www.ipcc.ch/2025/08/18/pr-ar7-authors/>

<sup>2</sup>Pacific Climate Change Centre. (2026). *Case study: Strengthening Pacific voices in global climate science: Engagement with IPCC processes*—Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

<sup>3</sup>Pacific Climate Change Centre. (2025). *Outcome report: Pacific Regional Dialogue on Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and PCCC Legacy Initiatives Project Development, 7–11 April 2025, Nadi, Fiji*. Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

<sup>4</sup>Pacific Climate Change Centre. (2025). *Pacific climate change research roadmap 2025–2030*—Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.